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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 January Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Ministers Arrive for Jerusalem Committee Talks *[Rabat]* 4
Arab League Committee Meets in Amman 4
Lebanon's Al-Huss Arrives *[Amman TV]* 4
Officials Arrive for Meetings *[Amman]* 4
Iraqi, Syrian Ministers Arrive *[Amman]* 4
King Husayn Chairs Meeting *[Amman TV]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Letter From Knesset Members *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
PLO's Qaddumi Says Armed Struggle To Escalate *[Sanaa YOP]* 5
DFLP's Hawatimah Speaks at News Conference *[APS]* 5
PLO Urges Egypt To Sever Ties With Israel *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
PFLP-GC Spokesman on Israeli Raid Casualties *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
Israeli Attacks 'Will Not Go Unpunished' *[AFP]* 6
PFLP Official, Others Arrested in Jordan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6

Algeria

Chadian Foreign Minister Arrives 1 Jan 7
Carries Habre Message 7
Received by Foreign Minister 7
Concludes Visit, Departs 3 Jan 7

Chad

Habre on Military, Economic Situation in 1988 7
Cabinet Discusses 1988 National Budget 8

Egypt

Troops Reportedly Offered to Gulf for Debt Aid *[Kuwait AL-SIYASAH 31 Dec]* 9
Jordan Also To Send Troops *[RFL]* 9
Agreement Denied *[WAM]* 9
Public Rally Supports Palestinian Uprising 9
Police Arrest 22 9
Islamic Fundamentalists Arrested *[AFP]* 10
26 Released on Bail 10
Consultative Council Denounces Israeli Measures 10
USSR's Brutents Arrives in Cairo From Syria 11

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on World Issues *[BBC]* 11
Al-Qadhdhafi Views Chad, Amman Summit *[VOM]* 12
Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students on Revolution 13

Al-Qadhdhafi Message on Ties With Tunisia 15
Foreign Liaison Source on Relations With Egypt 15

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Receives Egypt's Butrus Ghali 15
Sees 'Great' Chances for Peace 15
Talks With Ethiopia Set for Cair on 7 Jan *[WAKH]* 16
Qaysan 'Liberated,' Garang Forces 'Crushed' 16
2 Ethiopians 'Arrested' 16
SPLA on 'Faked Battle' *[Radio SPLA]* 16
Ethiopian Soldier Seeks Political Asylum 16
Reveals Cuban 'Conspiracy' 17
Iraq Provides 'Large Quantities' of Arms *[KUNA]* 18
28 'Warplanes' Delivered *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 31 Dec]* 18
Israel Said Sending Arms, Officers to 'Rebels' *[Kuwait AL-NAHDAH 2 Jan]* 18
Attempted Coup Within Garang Leadership Noted 18

Western Sahara

Communique Says 93 Moroccan Soldiers Killed *[Algiers]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Inter-Gulf Affairs

UK 'Rules of Engagement' Review Urged *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 20
Greek-Owned Cargo Vessel Struck by Missile *[Athens]* 20
INA: UAE Fishing Boat Hijacked by Iran *[Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ 31 Dec]* 20

Kuwait

Amir Endorses 1986-87 State Budget 20

PDRY

'General' Amnesty, Exceptions Announced 21

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Syrian Foreign Minister 21
Defense Deputy on 'Importance' of Syrian Ties 21
Leaves for Syria 22

IRAQ

Saddam Husayn Addresses Kurdish Fighters 23
Saddam Husayn Addresses Awards Ceremony 24
Saddam Husayn Honors Ba'th Party Member 25
INA Reiterates Denial of Contacts With Israel 26
'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad From Kuwait 3 Jan *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 26
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations 26
Communique No 2,970 26
Communique No 2,971 27
Communique No 2,972 27
Communique No 2,973 28
Attack 'By Mistake' Denied 28
Spokesman Notes Iranian Losses 28

ISRAEL

Helicopter Draws Fire Over South Lebanon 29
Air Force Attacks 'Terrorist' Bases in Sidon 29
Powerful 'Terrorist' Radio Begins Broadcasting 29
Peres Replies to 'Moderate' Egyptian Message 29
Mubarak Message Notes 'Concern' Over Escalation 30
Darawshah Briefs Shamir on Mubarak Meeting 30
Shamir To Discuss 'Other' Ideas With Mubarak *[THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Jan]* 30
Text of 'London Document' on Peace Published *[MA'ARIV 1 Jan]* 30
Reciprocal Delegation Seen for USSR Visit 31
Wilner Receives USSR, PRC New Year Greetings *[AL HAMISHMAR 31 Dec]* 31
Knesset Member Denies Letter Sent to 'Arafat *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 1 Jan]* 31
Shamir Says 'Limited Number' Will Be Deported 32
9 'Activists' Ordered Deported 32
Profile of 'Senior Activists' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Jan]* 32
Demonstrators Protest U.S. 'Intervention' 33
Renewed Demonstrations Reported in Territories 33
Protest in Jabalyah 1 Jan 33
Curfew Imposed on Balatah 34
Security Forces' Presence Felt 34
Rioters in Nabulus Dispersed 34
Curfew on 2 West Bank Camps 34
Curfew Imposed on Gaza 34
IDF Decreasing Forces 34
186 Detained Rioters Released 35
Woman Killed in Al-Ram Camp 35
Disturbances Follow Killing 35
Unrest in Al-Ram, Ramallah 35
West Bank Distubances 4 Jan 35
Curfew Imposed on Qalqilyah 36
159 Reservists Refuse To Serve in Territories 36
Shamir Comments on Territories Policy, Budget 36

JORDAN

Amman TV on Al-Rifa'i BBC, POST Interview 38
Al-Huss Praises Husayn, Meets Al-Rifa'i 38
Decree Approves 1987 Budget Law Supplement *[AL-DUSTUR 27 Dec]* 39
Senate Endorses Budget, Makes Recommendations 39

LEBANON

Reaction to Hijacking of Helicopter Continues 41
Pilot Reveals 'Conspiracies' *[VOM]* 41
Criticizes Army Commanders *[VOM]* 41
Army Demands Helicopter's Return *[RFL]* 41
PSP Rejects 'Ultimatum' *[VOL]* 41
Junblatt Ready for 'War' *[VOL]* 41
Army Declares 'War' Zone *[VOL]* 41
Declaration 'Serious' *[RFL]* 42
Mediterranean Nations Briefed *[VOL]* 42
PSP Responds to Announcement *[VOM]* 42
Junblatt Terms Blockade 'Piracy' 42
'Nationalist' Parties Back PSP *[VOM]* 43
PSP Fires on Army Vessels *[VOM]* 43
Al-Huss Deplores Army Reaction 43
Military Outlines Position 44
'Mediators' Seek Solution 44

Israeli Forces Launch Air, Infantry Attacks 44
Qabrikha Hit *[VONR]* 44
'Gunman' Killed *[VOL]* 45
4 Israelis Killed 45
Hizballah Positions Raided *[AFP]* 45
PFLP-GC Building Destroyed *[RFL]* 45
Further Casualties Noted *[VOL]* 45
Areas Near Sidon Damaged 45
Amal Positions Attacked 46
Al-Rashidiyah Camp Shelled *[RFL]* 46
8 Soldiers Killed in 'Resistance' Attack 46
France's Bitterlin Arrives To Discuss Hostages *[VOL]* 46
Holds Talks, Leaves for Libya *[Paris]* 46

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Gives Message to Saudi King, Returns 48
Radio Notes Role in Iran-GCC States Mediation 48
USSR's Brutents on Gulf War, Amman Summit 48
Departs 1 Jan 48
Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Arrives 3 Jan 48
Received by General Talas 49
Minister Receives Soviet, Libyan Officials 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government Says Convoys, Supplies Reach Khowst 50
Commodity Shortage Eliminated 50
5,300 Tons of Goods Delivered 50
210-Vehicle Convoy Arrives 50
Life Returns to 'Normalcy' 51
'Fierce Clashes' Reported in Khowst, Other Areas *[Islamabad]* 51
Rebels Admit Convoy Successful *[AFP]* 51
Haqqani Wounded Near Khowst *[AFP]* 51
More on Khowst Situation *[AFP]* 52
Clash Reported in Qandahar *[Islamabad]* 53
Jalalabad Airport Attacked *[Islamabad]* 53
Mujahidin Offensive in Herat *[AFP]* 53
Protest Made to Pakistan for Border Violations 54
Spokesman Responds to Ziaul Haq Remarks, Actions 54
Westerners Infiltrate Under 'Mask of Journalists' 55
Details of Osman Demir Investigation Revealed 55
Najibullah, Delegation Return From Tour 31 Dec 55
Communique on Najibullah Visit to Cambodia 56
Najibullah on Opposition, Pakistani Relations *[Islamabad THE MUSLIM 16 Dec]* 57

Bangladesh

Ershad on Army's Part in Maintaining Peace 61
Ershad Urges Opposition To Participate in Polls 61
'No Alternative' to Elections 61
Polls To Be Held As Scheduled 61
Prime Minister Calls on Parties To Join Polls 62
Parliamentary Election To Be Held 28 Feb 62
Opposition Wants Polls Under Neutral Government 62
Major Opposition Parties Reject Election 62
Awami League, Others Reject Polls 62

Opposition Parties Announce 15-Day Agitation 63
Curfew To Be Reimposed in Dhaka, Other Towns 63
Ershad Leaves for Visits to Egypt, Iraq 63

India

Bangladesh Charge Causes 'Amazement' 63
Najibullah, Delegation Stop Over in Delhi *[Kabul]* 64
News Blackout on Anti-Naxalite Operations *[AFP]* 64
Tamil Nadu Faces Political Leadership Crisis 64
Ramachandran's Widow Heads AIADMK 65
Rival Faction Elects Leader 65
Janaki Asked To Form Government 65
Violence Continues in Gurkha Front Areas 65
1 Killed, 3 Injured in Attack 65
Police men's Residences Attacked 66
Bomb Factory Discovered 66
'Terrorists,' Police Clashes Continue in Punjab 66
9 Killed by 'Terrorists' 66
7 Reported Killed 1 Jan 66
2 'Terrorists,' 2 Police Killed 66
Congress-I Leader Killed 4 Jan 66
'Extremists' Gun Down 3 in Tripura 1 Jan 67
Kill 10 Persons 3 Jan 67
Center To Help Tripura With Insurgency Problem 67
INDIAN EXPRESS Views USSR Asian Policy *[17 Dec]* 67

Iran

Attempted Bombing of U.S. Base in Bahrain Noted 69
Bahraini Forces, Muslims Clash 69
Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons 70
Musavi Addresses Cabinet on War Effort 73
Foreign Broadcasts on Embargo, CW Assailed 74
Khomeyni Receives Families of War Victims 74
Mohtashemi, Governors Send Letter to Khomeyni 75
Jerusalem Committee Session Called 'Conspiracy' 75
Velayati Discusses USSR, Libya on TV Talk 75
IRNA Cites Oil Minister on OPEC Prices 76
Montazeri Receives Red Crescent Officials 1 Jan 76
Italian Envoy to Tehran Presents Credentials *[ANSA]* 77
Khamene'i, Belgian Envoy Discuss Expanding Ties 77
Envoy to Lebanon Opens Aid Center in Beirut 77
Defense Industries' Plane To Be Deployed 'Soon' 77
Official on Deployment of 'Pilotless Planes' 77
Basij Head Says Forces Can Break Any Blockade 77
Tehran Notes Increased Saudi Aid to Iraq 78
Tehran Cites AP on Attack on Maltese Tanker 78
Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue 78
Communique No 3,067 78
Communique No 3,068 79
Communique No 3069 79
Communique No 3,070 79

Pakistan

U.S. Bilateral View of Nuclear Issues Assailed *[DAWN 15 Dec]* 79
Editorial Favors Economic Cooperation With USSR *[DAWN 17 Dec]* 80

Sri Lanka

LTTE Members, Muslims Clash in Kathankudy *[Delhi]* 80
Indian Spokesman Deplores Incident *[Delhi]* 81
25 Confirmed Dead *[Delhi]* 81
Fresh Outbreak of Violence Feared *[AFP]* 81
2 Killed, 59 Injured by Bomb Blast in Kandy 82
Indian Troops Capture LTTE 'Terrorists', Arms 82

4 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD041354 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Israeli Raids—On 2 January IDF aircraft raided "terrorist positions" in south Lebanon, and navy vessels shelled the Druze ports of Al-Damur and Al-Jiyah, Jerusalem radio reported, pointing out that the IDF strikes were the first since the hang glider attack 25 November. Areas under the control of Fatah, Amal, the PFLP-GC, Hizballah, and the PSP came under attack.

The bodies of at least 14 civilians were recovered from rubble near Barja, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, and according to a 3 January AFP report, more than 20 people were killed during the raids. The agency also reported that the PFLP-GC released a communique in Damascus that the Israeli action would receive an "adequate response" while Fatah Revolutionary Council warned from Beirut that Israel's "barbarous acts against civilians will not go unpunished."

Army-PSP Controversy—Following the PSP's refusal to return a Lebanese Army helicopter hijacked 30 December, the army declared Lebanese territorial waters between Khaldah and Al-Awwali a "war operations zone" effective 2 January, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. In a statement carried by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain, the PSP General Secretariat designated the area from Ra's Bayrut to Al-Madfun a "military zone" and warned the army against committing "any reckless act."

Representatives of "nationalist parties and forces," including Amal, the Ba'th Party, the Communist Party, the Syrian Socialist National Party, the Nasirite Unionists, the Nasirite Popular Organization, and the PSP, issued a joint statement carried by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain that they will "react firmly" against "aggression" from the army.

In remarks cited by Beirut radio, PSP leader Walid Junblatt called for establishing a government of Arab Lebanon in areas not controlled by the Lebanese forces, including Tyre, Tripoli, the Al-Shuf Mountains and the Al-Biqa' Valley.

Israel

Deportations Ordered—Nine people described as "senior activists of terrorist organizations in the territories" have been ordered deported, IDF radio announced 3 January. In a subsequent interview with Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted that "the maximum penalty" of deportation is used "sparingly" and "only with regard to totally incorrigible cases." Shamir also noted that he will "explain the situation" to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak who sent a message expressing concern over Israeli actions regarding the territories.

The Egyptian ambassador conveyed the message to the director general of the prime minister's office, IDF radio reported. IDF radio revealed 31 December that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had replied to a message from his Egyptian counterpart, adding that the message was notable for its "moderate diplomatic tone" and its emphasis on resuming the peace process.

Arab Woman Shot Dead—In Al-Ram, north of Jerusalem, an Arab woman was killed 3 January when an IDF soldier opened fire on a group of youths, Jerusalem radio reported, adding that police used tear gas to disperse subsequent demonstrations. The radio also noted that the soldier and his commanding officer were suspended pending an investigation of the incident.

Egypt

Fundamentalists Arrested—According to an Interior Ministry statement carried by MENA, 22 people, including 2 Muslim fundamentalist leaders, were arrested 1 January at Cairo's Al-Azhar Mosque for attempting to "incite sedition" by "exploiting public sentiment" on events in the occupied territories. The statement also reiterated that Egypt has "strongly condemned the repressive Israeli acts against the Palestinians." The agency later reported that the state security court released on bail 26 people arrested 1 January.

Military Agreement Denied—In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD cited by WAM, "Egyptian sources" denied press reports that Egyptian troops will reinforce the armed forces of the GCC states in exchange for the latter paying some of Egypt's foreign debts.

Soviet Special Envoy Visits—President Husni Mubarak received Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department and special envoy of the Soviet leadership, MENA reported 4 January. Brutents arrived in Cairo from Damascus 1 January to brief Egyptian officials on the outcome of the Washington summit and to discuss bilateral relations, the agency noted.

Saudi Arabia-Syria

Saudi King Fahd received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who delivered a verbal message from President Hafiz al-Asad on the regional situation and issues of mutual interest, Damascus radio reported 31 December.

Gulf Conflict

Battle Reports—Iraqi warplanes scored "accurate, effective hits" on large maritime targets near the Iranian coast 31 December and 1 January, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Athens radio reported that a Greek-owned freighter registered in Malta sustained minor damage after an Iraqi Exocet hit it "by mistake" 1 January.

However, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA 3 January "strongly denied" a report that Iraqi jets mistakenly attacked a non-Iranian oil tanker 31 December. Iraqi warplanes also carried out a "destructive raid" on a bridge in Dezful, another communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio announced.

For Iran's part, IRNA reported that Iranian jets "inflicted substantial casualties and losses" on Iraqi positions and troop concentrations in Irbil Province 3 January.

Warning on Blockade—If the "half-baked idea" for a naval blockade against Iran is implemented, the Gulf "will be blocked for all regional states," President 'Ali Khamene'i warned in remarks carried by Tehran radio 1 January. By "playing with fire," Iran's enemies risk major damage to themselves, Khamene'i asserted. He also reiterated that an arms embargo against Iran is "neither possible nor useful" since Iran produces most of its armament needs and will not be hampered from obtaining other weapons supplies on the international market.

Afghanistan

Khowst Situation—"Life in Khowst has returned to normalcy," according to a 3 January BAKHTAR report which added that the district has been "totally cleared" of extremists. Several supply convoys have reached the beleaguered city, Kabul radio reported. Nevertheless, the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad admitted to AFP 2 January that combat operations are still continuing against "isolated groups" in the mountains.

According to "resistance sources" cited by the agency, "heavy fighting" continues. In response to Western reports that Soviet troops have suffered heavy casualties, a Soviet colonel told Moscow television that Soviet forces are "bearing minimal losses."

Protest to Pakistan—The Foreign Ministry summoned the Pakistani charge to receive a note protesting a Pakistani helicopter's violation of Afghan airspace in Nangarhar Province 28 December, Kabul radio reported.

Najibullah Concludes Tour—President Najibullah and his delegation returned home 31 December from "official and friendly" visits to Cambodia and Vietnam, Kabul radio reported.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi predicted that a "wave of violence" will hit Arab capitals and that "several heads" will roll as a result of the Amman summit's decision on restoring relations with Egypt, according to a statement to AL-SAFIR reported by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio 1 January. On the subject of threats to Libya, Al-Qadhdhafi asserted that an "anti-Libyan alliance" has been formed among the United States, France, Egypt, Israel, Zaire, and the Ivory Coast.

"Chad is merely the land used by all these hostile forces," he declared. In a speech carried by Tripoli television on the occasion of the convening of the basic people's congresses, the Libyan leader touched on the "Western crusade alliance" against the Arabs; however, he devoted the bulk of his remarks to domestic issues, especially the need to become economically self-sufficient by pursuing the goals of the "revolutionary program."

Sudan

Government forces fought a "decisive battle" and succeeded in "liberating" Qaysan 1 January, Omdurman radio declared. However, SPLA radio termed the announcement an "obnoxious and callous naked lie" designed to enhance Independence Day celebrations. There was no battle for Qaysan, the SPLA asserted, because, in line with guerrilla tactics, SPLA forces had already "evacuated" the town.

Regarding foreign involvement in the conflict in the south, SUNA reported that two Ethiopian soldiers captured during the battle for Qaysan revealed "very important information." The agency also reported that another Ethiopian soldier who surrendered to Sudanese forces in Kurmuk 30 December provided further details of an "Ethiopian-Cuban conspiracy." According to WAKH 3 January, it has been agreed that the Ethiopian and Sudanese foreign ministers will meet in Cairo 7 January to discuss bilateral relations.

Western Sahara

On 30 December, the Saharan Army carried out a "violent attack" during which 93 Moroccan soldiers were killed and some 150 wounded, according to a military communique cited by Algiers radio.

Tunisia

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali pardoned 405 people who were sentenced for various political crimes, TAP reported 31 December, adding that the decree revoked some sentences and reduced others. The son of former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali was one of seven people released after paying "financial surety to the Treasury."

PDRY

The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council issued a decree granting "general and comprehensive amnesty" to persons who participated in the uprising of 13 January 1986, Aden radio announced 31 December, adding that the decree does not apply to those who were convicted by the Supreme Court.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Ministers Arrive for Jerusalem Committee Talks

LD031420 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Tomorrow the Jerusalem Committee will begin an emergency meeting called by its chairman, King Hassan II, to study the current situation in the occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem, and the atrocious repressive measures used by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people's uprising.

Mauritanian Foreign Minister Sidi Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane arrived at King Mohamed V airport today to attend the meeting. [passage omitted]

Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall also arrived at Fes for the same purpose. [passage omitted]

Arab League Committee Meets in Amman

Lebanon's Al-Huss Arrives

JN012052 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Amman this evening to attend a meeting of the Arab League ministerial committee assigned to examine the working conditions of Arab organizations. In a statement to Jordan television upon arrival, Dr al-Huss said he will head a special team of Arab experts to study a report assessing the work of Arab League organizations with the aim of improving their productivity.

The meeting on Sunday comes within the framework of the extraordinary Arab summit resolutions which included a call for a meeting of the Arab League Economic and Social Council to study the committee's report. Dr al-Huss was received upon arrival by the ministers of industry, trade, and supply; finance; and planning; as well as the Lebanese ambassador in Amman and the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Officials Arrive for Meetings

JN022058 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Mahamed Ghannouchi, Tunisian minister attached to the prime minister's office in charge of planning, arrived in Amman this evening to participate in the meetings of the ministerial committee entrusted with discussing the situation of the specialized Arab organizations.

In a statement to a JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Ghannouchi said his visit to Jordan comes at the invitation of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan to attend the meetings that will begin tomorrow. The meetings will discuss the document presented by the experts working team on the situation of the specialized Arab organizations and ways to promote them so they will assume a more effective role in joint Arab action. Ghannouchi expressed hope that appropriate solutions as well as practical measures will be adopted to achieve the objectives for which these organizations were established. He was received at Queen Alia International Airport by Dr Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, minister of supply, industry, and trade; a number of senior ministry officials; and the Tunisian charge d'affaires.

'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad, director general of the Arab Fund for Economic Development, also arrived in Amman this afternoon to participate in the meetings of the ministerial committee entrusted with discussing the situation of the specialized Arab organizations. These meetings will begin under His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's patronage tomorrow. Planning Minister Dr Tahir Kan'an and senior ministry officials received the director general at the airport.

Iraqi, Syrian Ministers Arrive

JN031438 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Iraqi Trade Minister Dr Muhammad Mahdi Salih arrived in Amman this morning for meetings of the ministerial committee formed to discuss specialized Arab organizations. The meetings will begin in Amman today under the patronage of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the Iraqi minister said the ministerial committee is one way of helping entrench a unified Arab stand through a common view and understanding of Arab organizations' work. These organizations are one means of achieving Arab economic integration to fulfill the Arab countries' common objectives. He expressed the hope that the ministerial committee's meetings will yield positive results to rectify the Arab organizations' situation in the service of joint Arab action.

Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian economy and foreign trade minister, also arrived in Amman via Al-Ramtha today for this purpose. In an arrival statement to a PETRA-JNA correspondent, Dr al-'Imadi said he hoped these meetings would lay down major outlines to promote joint Arab action, which should exist to achieve our objectives in terms of Arab economic integration and the pooling of Arab resources to realize Arab citizens' goals and aspirations.

King Husayn Chairs Meeting

JN032035 Amman Television Service in English 1000 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening chaired part of the meeting of the eight-member Arab League ministerial committee. The committee is entrusted to examine the work of joint Arab organizations.

The eight-member Arab League ministerial committee opened its meetings earlier in Amman under His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and in the presence of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. The committee will examine the work and financial conditions of pan-Arab organizations. The committee's meetings are one of the results of last November's extraordinary Arab summit conference in Amman, which called for the promotion of Arab common action. It convened upon invitation from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

The committee, which is headed by the Algerian finance minsiter, comprises ministers from Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Jordan, as well as a representative from the Palestine Liberation Organization, the PLO. Lebanon's acting prime minister, Dr Salim al- Huss, who heads the experts team, and a number of other officials from Arab countries are taking part in the meeting. During its 3-day meeting, the committee will examine a report presented by Dr al-Huss on ways of organizing and promoting common Arab action. The meeting was attended by Minister of Finance Dr Hanna 'Awdah and the under secretary of trade and industry, Muhammad al-Saqqaf.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Letter From Knesset Members

JN011248 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat yesterday addressed a message to Palestinians in the occupied territory in which he urged them to continue the struggle until Palestinian rights are regained. He asserted the Palestinians will wrest their right to establish an independent state in Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

At the same time 'Arafat has expressed readiness to discuss the establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian confederation. In an interview with the French magazine LA NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, 'Arafat said he received a letter last week signed by 12 Israeli Labour Party Knesset members. 'Arafat said the letter explains in detail the plan to establish such a confederation. 'Arafat said he is prepared to talk to the Knesset members.

'Arafat also said he sees positive signs in the peace efforts because the United States has agreed to the principle of convening an international peace conference and that he has learned of such an agreement from a Soviet envoy with whom he had met in Baghdad.

PLO's Qaddumi Says Armed Struggle To Escalate

JN021725 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Brother Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has asserted that the escalation of armed struggle inside the occupied homeland will be the PLO's main plan of action. In a press statement published yesterday on the 23d anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, he said armed struggle is the only language the Zionist entity understands, adding that the enemy's crimes will not pass unpunished. He pointed out that this year began with a picture of a Palestinian child watering Palestinian soil with his pure blood.

Qaddumi added: Through the daily state of affairs in the occupied territories, the Palestinian people are writing the most splendid, heroic epics in sacrifice. The stones and rocks which the children, the elderly, and the girls throw at the occupation's malice are a new, effective factor which will inevitably change the balance of power in favor of our people and their inalienable national rights.

Brother Abu 'l-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] expects there will be a widespread pan-Arab awakening in support of the Palestinian people's struggle. This confirms the old but new fact that the Palestine question is the Arab nation's central and fundamental cause.

DFLP's Hawatimah Speaks at News Conference

LD021639 Algiers APS in Arabic
1400 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Algiers, 2 Jan (APS)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, said at a press conference in Algiers that the brave uprising which the Palestinian people have bee.. waging for the 4th successive week "will not stop until the achievement of the main political objectives represented in the withdrawal of Zionist forces from the occupied Arab territories and the arrival of UN forces to protect the Palestinian population from Zionist oppression."

He said that the arrival of the UN forces is only a preliminary, enabling the Palestinian people to decide their fate and permitting the convening of an international conference with full powers and with the participation of all the concerned parties in the Middle East conflict on an equal footing, including the Palestinian people as their sole legitimate representative. Hawatimah added that the Zionist oppression, which is trying in vain to stifle the uprising, so far has led to 56 people killed and 7,000 detained.

The Palestinian official said that the war minister of the Zionist entity has admitted the existence of 1,200 detainees at Al-Ansar Prison, 800 at the Al-Dhahriyah camp south of Hebron, and 700 at Al-Quaray'ah, south of Nablus. Hawatimah said Zionist military courts are devoting no more than 2 minutes to the trial of detainees and added that the Zionist occupation administration is preparing lists of those it intends to deport. He spoke about the factors which led to the uprising and said among the direct causes is the disappointment suffered

by the Palestinian people following the U.S. rejection of the principle of holding a conference on peace in the Middle East and the signing of the latest Zionist-U.S. agreement.

He said the uprising will not stop until the abolition of the emergency regulations of 1945 inherited from British colonialism, requiring a halt to further detention, the freeing of prisoners, the closing down of detention camps which remind us of Nazi and fascist camps, the banning of the deportation of Palestinians from their land, and respect for human rights and the Geneva convention on the protection of civilians in wartime.

He stressed the importance of backing the uprising in the occupied territories, the mending of Palestinian-Syrian relations, and the restoration of the alliance with Lebanese resistance to devote all energies to the advanced front against the common enemy which occupies the Golan and part of southern Lebanon.

PLO Urges Egypt To Sever Ties With Israel

JN031722 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Following the Israeli Government's decision to deport nine Palestinians from the occupied territories, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has stated that the PLO has called for an urgent Arab League Council meeting on the foreign ministers level. He added that the PLO intends to contact the UN Security Council. It also calls on the Egyptian Government to immediately sever relations with Israel and expel the Israeli ambassador from Cairo.

PFLP-GC Spokesman on Israeli Raid Casualties

JN031251 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] The military spokesman for the PFLP-GC has made a statement in which he said Israel carried out a large-scale attack against PFLP-GC bases last night. Helicopters, protected by U.S.-made fighter aircraft, participated in the attack and were also supported by the Israeli Navy. The spokesman added that the aggression was against the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp area and Al-Kharrub.

The spokesman said that preliminary reports about PFLP-GC casualties say three were martyred and six were wounded.

The DFLP spokesman also made a statement saying Israel's raids and its daily repressive measures in the occupied territories will not dissuade the Palestinian people from pursuing their struggle. [passage omitted]

Israeli Attacks 'Will Not Go Unpunished'

NC0352123 Paris AFP in English 2058 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus, Jan 3 (AFP)—Two Palestinian groups Sunday vowed to retaliate for Israeli air raids over the weekend on Druze and Palestinian positions south of Beirut and along the Lebanese coast that reportedly killed more than 20 people.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) declared in a communique here that Israel's "massacre" of unarmed civilians would be met by an "adequate response."

The statement said six PFLP-GC members were among the 18 Palestinians killed in Saturday's air raids on the group's headquarters in the suburbs of Barja, 34 kilometers (20 miles) south of Beirut.

Israeli military radio said the raid was in response to a November 25 operation, claimed by the PFLP-GC, in which a lone gunmen flew a hang-glider into northern Israel from Lebanon and killed six Israeli soldiers at an army camp.

In Beirut, the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal warned that Israel's "barbarous acts against civilians will not go unpunished." The group said in a communique that "all institutions of the Zionist entity will be targets of our fighters."

In addition to PFLP-GC positions, Israeli jets pounded the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp east of the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon, killing one, as well as two positions held by the Druze Progressive Socialist Party, in which Druze militia sources said four people died.

PFLP Official, Others Arrested in Jordan

JN030618 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] In Damascus, the PFLP asserted that on the night of 31 December-1 January the Jordanian authorities arrested Hamdi Matar, PFLP Central Committee member, as part of a wave of arrests including about 50 Palestinians.

In a statement issued in Damascus yesterday, the PFLP asserted that the wave of arrests by the Jordanian authorities aims to contain the popular and student movement that occurred recently in a Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan and at the Jordan and Al-Yarmuk Universities in solidarity with citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Algeria

Chadian Foreign Minister Arrives 1 Jan

Carries Habre Message

LD011951 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Gouara Lassou, the Chadian Minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived in Algiers this afternoon. He was welcomed upon arrival at the airport by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs.

The Chadian minister said in a statement to newsmen in the VIP hall that he was carrying a message to President Chadli Bendjedid from Chadian President Hissein Habre as part of the continued consultations between the two countries.

Received by Foreign Minister

LD021550 Algiers APS in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Algiers, 2 Jan (APS)—Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi today received Gouara Lassou, Chadian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. The two ministers exchanged views on bilateral relations and African political issues. The talks were enlarged to include Isma'il Hamdani, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and cadres from the ministry, including the official in charge of Chadian affairs.

Concludes Visit, Departs 3 Jan

LD032026 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] At the headquarters of the party this afternoon Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the party Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat, received Gouara Lassou, the Chadian minister of foreign affairs who delivered to the official of the Permanent Secretariat a message for President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the party, from Chadian President Hissein Habre.

The Chadian official has left Algeria this afternoon and was seen off at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister.

Chad

Habre on Military, Economic Situation in 1988

AB312117 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 31 Dec 87

[New Year address by President Hissein Habre on 31 December—live or recorded]

[Text] Chadians, a good and happy 1988 New Year. May the Almighty, with all His generosity, support your initiatives and actions, bring greater peace and tranquility in your homes, and more love and happiness in your lives. May the year 1988 be for the Chadian nation the year of total and lasting peace, and that of a new era of progress and prosperity.

In this perspective, there is need to recall that 1988 is beginning under the signs of brilliant victories. It is particularly starting with the strengthening and the consolidation of national unity, as well as with decisive gains in the liberation struggle against Libyan expansionism, thanks to the solidarity demonstrated by all of you and the exceptional devotion of the FANT.

In fact, from 2 January to only the end of April [1987], the FANT, before a doubting world, completely swept away the aggression and occupation forces. It broke and destroyed their gigantic and murderous war machines. Fada, Bir Kora, Ouadi Doum, Gebia, Ounianga, Goura, Kirdimi, Ogi, Zouare, Bardai, Zoumri, Yebbi Bou, Wour, On., and Omchi all saw their freedom and dignity restored. Thus, after several years of humiliation and suffering, our countrymen in these occupied areas witnessed and participated in eradicating the damages of slavery and the destruction of the myth of the invaders' omnipotence and invincibility.

Despite their crushing defeats—and they were angered by these failures—the criminals of Al-Qadhdhafi began to drop tons and tons of bombs on our towns and villages. They attacked innocent civilans in a barbaric manner. But the FANT, who were determined to protect our people, in a lightning action of self-defense and rightful retaliation, struck and completely destroyed Ma'tan al-Sarra ground and air base, which was home to most of the Libyan bombers. After completely accomplishing this mission, the FANT returned to their base, thus demonstrating once again that Chad only wishes to defend itself, in full conformity with international law.

Chadians, if I recall these outstanding (?victories) of the FANT in the face of the merciless war being imposed on us by Libya, it is first of all to pay, on your behalf, a glowing tribute to these worthy Chadian sons who, in often difficult conditions, have been able to preserve our dignity and to defend our basic rights. It is also to once again emphasize the crazy obstinacy of Libya in the pursuit of its traditional objectives of [words indistinct].

It is additionally to ask you to remain vigilant and always mobilized to continue, alongside the fighting Armed Forces, to make all kinds of efforts until we completely recover our rights.

Let us not rest on our laurels, especially at a time when the Tripoli regime, while openly continuing its aggression, is also employing sly and delaying maneuvers to make public opinion believe it has now [words indistinct]. Despite the fact that we are completely undiscouraged by the conditions that could result from all the laudable attempts being made to resolve this issue—particularly within the OAU ad hoc committee, and to which we pledged all our goodwill—we can however note that at the same time [words indistinct] Libya is amassing its forces, is recruiting all sorts of mercenaries, and is concentrating men and equipment in Darfur Province on our eastern border.

This is unfortunately being done with the complicity of the Sudanese authorities. Libya even goes so far as to place its forces at the extreme end of the common border between Chad, Niger, and Libya, which is located in the western part of our country. In our view, this is an unacceptable and dangerous situation that clearly reveals the enemy's intentions. It has also never denied these aims. We must be prepared day and night to confront this situation by alway ensuring that we do not take all these developments lightly. No one must forget the constant duplicity of all Libyan policies. Therefore, I am calling on you to assume all your responsibilities, to remain mobilized, and to be prepared for any eventuality.

Chadians, it is true that the struggle must continue. It is true that the huge success we have recently achieved on the battlefront is, for us, a source of comfort, encouragement, and legitimate pride [words indistinct] also lauded by all. At the meetings of the United Nations in New York, at the OAU meeting in Addis Ababa, at the ICO summit in Cairo, at the Francophone Africa summit in Antibes, and at all international meetings, Chad [passage indistinct]. This is why we accepted the invitation of the OAU chairman, His Excellency Kenneth Kaunda, and that of the chairman of the OAU ad hoc committee, His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, to visit Lusaka recently. This is further clear proof of our readiness and our good faith.

In the same vein, we agreed to proclaim the cease-fire proposed by the OAU chairman. We scrupulously respected this cease-fire despite the constant violations of it by the aggressor. Did we not, right from start, warn the creators of this cease-fire of Libyan double-dealing, of several delaying tactics, and of intensive preparations for war? Whatever the case, we are following the work of the ad hoc committee very closely, and we hope that it will lead to positive results. Confidence and vigilance are our watchwords.

Chadians, undoubtedly [words indistinct] on the same path has brought us important victories that encourage us to continue our march forward. But we must openly state that in the socioeconomic field, our optimism must be (?measured), for we are facing all the painful consequences of the serious crisis currently affecting the world. Unfortunately, there is no encouraging solution in sight. Therefore, we must continue our efforts and make further sacrifices. With the assistance of the World Bank and the IMF, as well as that of friendly countries and international organizations, we embarked upon a program of reorganization, restructuring, and a revival of our economy. This program, which is coming at a time when the international economic and financial situation is frankly very bad, demanded that we make sacrifices and efforts [words indistinct], and continue our march on our path to economic progress.

Of course, we want the international community, which has become more aware of the realities of Chad, to increase its support for our efforts. The government, of course, will ensure that the baneful effects are [passage indistinct]. It will continue to assume all its responsibilities and try to achieve the targets we set for ourselves under the interim plan. I am certain that you also, with your fighting spirit, your determination, and due to your patriotism, will contribute decisively to this task of national redress. This is because this field also requires collective efforts and national solidarity to overcome the several obstacles on our path to national salvation.

I have no doubt at all that Chadians, as they have always done, will be adequate to this task. Chadians, your own experience has always shown us that with [words indistinct] and your spirit of surpassing yourselves, your unfailing cohesion, and your constant solidarity, we can achieve many things. Let us therefore continue to nurture brotherhood and to cultivate [words indistinct].

We must remain mobilized within our great movement, the National Union for Independence and Revolution. We must remain united and gathered around our valiant fighting forces for the total liberation or our country. Let us redouble our effort in the fight against poverty and underdevelopment. May the Almighty firmly support our efforts and guide us in the right direction. Happy new year. Long live the Republic.

Cabinet Discusses 1988 National Budget

AB022118 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The ordinary Cabinet meeting was held on 31 December under the chairmanship of El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic. The Cabinet members largely discussed the national general budget for 1988. It is characterized by a level of investment unprecedented in the history of the Chadian administration. Mr Adoum Moussa Seif, the minister delegate at the presidency for information and civic orientation and governmental spokesman, reports on the meeting:

[Begin recording] The ordinary Cabinet meeting, which was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic and head of state, discussed and adopted the national general budget for 1988. This plan, which includes an operating budget presented by the minister of finance and computerization, and an investment budget presented by the minister of planning and cooperation, is largely inspired by the 1987 budget, at least as far as the principles that guided its design are concerned.

The persistent Libyan aggression, the international economic situation characterized by the drop in the prices of raw materials, and the implementation of financial and economic programs with the IMF and the World Bank are many factors that will persist in 1988. These factors call for the same conditions and the observance of the same instructions: a low level of revenue collection, realism in revenue projections, a leveling of spending, fiscal neutrality, and austerity and efficiency in management.

However, this picture must be appreciably improved when it comes to the investment budget, which has markedly increased compared to 1986 and 1987. The state budget for 1988 is as follows: 1988 operating budget based on its own resources: receipts: 17.9 billion CFA francs. Expenditures: 25.6 billion CFA francs. Deficit: 7.5 billion CFA francs covered by external public aid. As can be seen, these figures, which are similar to those of 1987, clearly indicate the state's low level of resources compared to the country's huge needs. The persistent low level of receipt collection combined with the general upward trend of spending and the poor management of oil taxes represent major difficulties in implementing this budget in the future. [passage omitted]

The 1988 investment budget, which was presented by the minister of planning and cooperation as part of the public investment program, stands at 80.9 billion CFA francs. In 1986 and 1987, it stood at 41.3 billion CFA francs and 72 billion CFA francs, respectively. This investment budget, which has experienced a marked increase, represents one-fourth of the domestic gross product and again reflects the country's huge need for all types of infrastructure, whether material, human, or institutional. Thirty-eight percent of the 80.9 billion CFA francs are financed from concessional loans. These have an average interest rate of 1.2 percent and adequate grace periods. Sixty-two percent of the CFA francs are financed from grants. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Troops Reportedly Offered to Gulf for Debt Aid

JN021614 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 31 Dec 87 p 1

[Dispatch from London]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Riyadh and London have said that Egypt has agreed with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other GCC states to dispatch more than 10,000 Egyptian officers and soldiers to work in the armed forces of the GCC states. The sources added that first the Egyptian officers will be laid off and released by the Egyptian Defense Ministry and then they will join the armed forces of the GCC states.

Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo and Riyadh said this agreement was discussed in detail during Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah's visit to Cairo last week.

AL-SIYASAH has learned that the GCC states will pay approximately $4.5 billion, part of Egypt's military debts, over a period of 3 years in return for the Egyptian military aid to the GCC states.

Jordan Also To Send Troops

NC031007 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] According to the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, Egypt and Jordan will send 30,000 troops to the Gulf as part of an Arab defense force which is scheduled to be established in the region next month. Quoting diplomatic sources in Cairo, the magazine reports that the purpose of setting up this force is to confront any Iranian aggression against any GCC country and to assist Iraq against possible Iranian invasion.

Agreement Denied

JN010807 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0745 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Jan (WAM)—Egyptian sources have denied the existence of any agreement between Egypt and the Arab Gulf countries to dispatch 10,000 Egyptian troops to work in the armed forces of the GCC countries in return for payments from the Gulf countries of $4.5 billion, part of Egypt's military debts, over a period of 3 years.

In statement published by the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD in its issue today, the Egyptian sources also denied that military talks were held between His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz , Saudi crown prince and commander of the Saudi National Guard, and officials in Cairo during Prince 'Abdallah's recent visit to Egypt. The Egyptian sources added that if former military men are working in the Gulf countries, it has to do with citizens' freedom of movement and work and does not indicate an official agreement in this respect.

Public Rally Supports Palestinian Uprising

Police Arrest 22

NC011529 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—The police forces have arrested 22 people who were trying to assemble in public in central Cairo in order to carry out riotous acts, after they failed to arouse the masses inside Al-Azhar Mosque

following the Friday prayers today. The Public Prosecution Office has begun interrogating the detainees. Interior Minister Zaki Badr has personally supervised all the security procedures taken to secure the citizens' safety in the capital.

The Interior Ministry issued the following statement today on the incident:

Today, 1 January, some individuals known for their tendency to exploit occasions and places of public assembly in order to rouse the public—among them Hafiz Salamah and 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman—used the occasion of the Friday prayers in order to incite sedition. Toward this end, they exploited the public sentiments regarding the current events in the occupied territories.

In view of this development, 22 people were arrested after they attempted to assemble the masses in the city's center in order to carry out riotous acts and incitement. This attempt, which took place inside the Al-Azhar Mosque, failed; the rites of worship were concluded peacefully and the worshippers left.

The interior minister followed up on all the measures that were taken to guarantee the citizens' safety. These measures have been adopted all over the capital.

The prosecution has begun interrogating the persons who have been arrested.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Isma'il al-'Adawi, imam of the Al-Azhar Mosque, stated that a people's meeting in support of the Palestinian uprising was scheduled to be held inside the mosque at 1000 before the Friday prayers today. Shaykh al-'Adawi added that the meeting was not held because one of the participants failed to show up.

It is worth noting that Egypt had often strongly condemned the repressive Israeli acts against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Egypt had also asked Israel to stop such arbitrary measures and warned against deporting or conducting mock trials for the Palestinians it had arrested during the uprising which broke out in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 3 weeks ago.

Egyptian diplomatic efforts at the United Nations and Egypt's contacts have played an important role in the issuance of the Security Council resolution that condemned the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories. Egypt has asked Israel to abide by the Geneva Convention with regard to the treatment of civilians under occupation.

Islamic Fundamentalists Arrested

NC021509 Paris AFP in English 1447 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, Jan 2 (AFP)—Twenty-two people arrested during anti-Israeli demonstrations by Moslems here on Friday are to go before the State Security Court here Sunday, judicial soruces said Saturday.

Among those arrested in the protests against Israeli repression in the occupied territories were known Moslem fundamentalists Shaykh Hafiz Salamah and 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman.

The arrested protestors will face charges of riotous assembly, incitement to subversion, and resisting security forces, legal sources said.

Helmeted riot police armed with electrified clubs dispersed Friday's demonstration by about 2,000 people, who marched across Cairo after attending Friday prayers in the mosques. Three policemen were injured.

Twenty-two Palestinians were shot dead during clashes with Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip and West Bank in three weeks of clashes from December 9, according to Israeli military figures.

26 Released on Bail

NC031430 Cairo MENA in English 1348 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 3 (MENA)—The state security decided today to release 26 persons arrested on Friday for demonstrating following Friday prayers.

The release was made on bail ranging between 20 and 50 pounds.

Consultative Council Denounces Israeli Measures

NC021345 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—The Consultative Council has denounced the inhuman and terrorist measures that the Israeli occupation authorities continue to take in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Arab Jerusalem. In a statement released today, the Consultative Council emphasized that the peace treaty with Israel is not viewed as a unilateral solution but as a step toward a peace process involving the entire Middle East. This step must be followed by others if peace is to be achieved. Peace, the statement said, cannot be based on violence, terrorism, and the annihilation and persecution of the Palestinian people.

The Consultative Council appealed to the world's parliaments and organizations to intercede immediately to halt these inhuman acts, which run counter to the people's right to self-defense. The statement praised Egyptian political leaders for their efforts with the United States, which responded to Egypt's appeal by not supporting Israel at the Security Council. The statement called on the international community to exert the utmost efforts to convene an international conference so that a comprehensive peaceful settlement may be reached, occupied Arab territory restored, and the Palestinian issue resolved.

Dr Ahmad Salamah, minister of state for People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs, affirmed that it is with the utmost concern and extreme anxiety that Egypt has been following the events of the overwhelming uprising of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in recent weeks. This uprising is of deep significance in many ways, as it confirms the Palestinian people's rejection of the Israeli occupation, their adherence to their legitimate national rights, and their determination to continue the struggle until these rights are restored.

In his statement, delivered before the council on behalf of the government, Salamah said that the continuation of the Palestinian people's uprising despite all the suppressive measures proves that violence only produces more violence. It also proves, he declared, that the only way to achieve peace and stability for the region and its people is by convening an international peace conference under UN auspices. Dr Salamah expressed his support for the Palestinian people's uprising and said that Egypt has strongly condemned the repressive methods used by Israel in confronting this uprising.

Discussing the council's statement, members of the Consultative Council affirmed the Egyptian people's backing for the Palestinian people and their support for the popular uprising being staged by unarmed Palestinian youths against the Israeli forces.

The council members criticized Israel's brutal way of confronting the uprising of the Palestinian people, who are demanding their legitimate rights.

USSR's Brutents Arrives in Cairo From Syria

NC011835 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department and the Supreme Soviet Presidium's envoy, arrived in Cairo this evening for a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Upon his arrival, Brutents said the aim of his visit is to brief Egyptian officials on the outcome of the Soviet-U.S. summit conference and to discuss bilateral relations.

Assistant Foreign Minister Wafa' Hijazi, who received the Soviet official at the airport, stated that President Husni Mubarak, as well as Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of other Egyptian officials, will receive the Soviet guest. Hijazi said that the Soviet official's visit is indicative of the firm relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet envoy was also met at the airport by Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo, and Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak, director of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on World Issues

LD311256 London BBC World Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Report on telephone interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Hasan Mu'awwad; date, place not given]

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has given his opinion of the wave of protests staged in the occupied West Bank and Baza Strip. He criticized Britain, the United States, and even the Arab rulers. The criticism came in an exclusive interview with the BBC Arabic Service conducted over the telephone by colleague Hasan Mu'awwad. The Libyan leader also discussed his position on the Iraq-Iran war and relations with the Arab Maghreb states, the United States, and Britain.

The Libyan leader first spoke about the recent wave of protests in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He said:

[Begin recording] I have contacts with all the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The revolution has reached all the Palestinian people. I am now seeking to call on all the Arabs to provide genuine support for our people to enable them to perpetuate this revolution. I have also sent messages to the UN secretary general, the Security Council, and the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, urging them to mobilize world public opinion and resources in support of these people who are defending their freedom in their own homeland.

I have contacted some leaders in occupied Palestine over the past days. They assured me of the steadfastness and continuation of the revolution and of the high morale. On this occasion I urge our heroic Palestinian people to continue the revolution. I have asked the leaders that I have contacted, and I now ask the Palestinian masses, not to necessarily use violence because the will of the Palestinian people is stronger than the enemy's weapons. The Palestinian people's will is stronger than arms and there is no need to use any means of violence, lest we give the enemy an excuse to open fire and commit massacres everywhere in order to terrorize our people.

I, however, call for civil mutiny and the destruction of the interests of Britain which gave Palestine to the Israelis—for the destruction of these interests in occupied Palestine as well as the interests of the United States, which backs this repressive enemy. [end recording]

The Libyan leader then spoke about the Arab dimension of the wave of protests. He said:

[Begin recording] This sweeping uprising came as an answer to the Amman treasonous conference which clearly forfeited Palestinian rights and beloved Palestine. I will support this revolution with all resources and I am

working for the mobilization of effective Arab and international forces in support of the Palestinian people. The world must understand that the traitor Arab rulers misrepresented the case to the conference and that this is the case of a people whose land has been occupied since 1948. [end recording]

We then asked about the Gulf war, noting in this connection the presence of the Iranian foreign minister now in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, the reports about the alleged Iranian intention to launch a large-scale offensive against Iraq, and about the possibility of it extending to the other Arab Gulf states. He said:

[Begin recording] We have been against this war from the very beginning. I have made efforts and continue to make efforts to bring about an end to the war. I see it as an aimless war and a mad war characterized by cowardice and immorality, so much so that school children have become a target of the two sides. The war has stooped so low that it has lost sight of the truth, of the foundations of Islam, and Arab ethics. I condemn the two sides. Regarding the other Arab states, they were the ones who involved themselves in that war and brought the United States to occupy the Gulf.

I happen to know that the Arabs have not benefited from the Gulf oil which has been of service to the United States. That is why when the war got close to the oil and to these interests, the United States interfered to protect its interests. [end recording]

Still regarding the Iraq-Iran war, we asked the Li' ·an leader if he would abide by any international ban on the export of arms to Iran. He replied:

[Begin recording] Libya is not an arms exporter. It imports arms. I wish there could be a ban on the manufacture and export of arm s, not only to Iran but to everyone. [end recording]

It has been reported that the Libyan Jamahiriyah is trying to improve its relations with the Arab Maghreb and the Arab world in general. We asked Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for his opinion of these reports. He said:

[Begin recording] Our message is clear. It is Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf. With the birth of the revolution in Libya, the winds of unity blew on the Arab Maghreb region, which had until then been isolated. The Arab African Union was set up with the Moroccan Kingdom but because of the king's isolationism and the U S. and Israeli pressures on him, he was not free to go ahead with this union. Therefore he unilaterally and illegally annulled the union; this was illegal because a public referendum was held and the people approved it.

The king abrogated the union without consulting the people. Now there is a constitution for a federation between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria. We invite Tunisia, Mauritania, and even Morocco to join the federation, and if we see that they cannot grant the Arab masses' demands for unity, then the federation will be immediately set up between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria. [end recording]

Finally, on the Libyan Jamahiriyah's foreign relations, we asked the Libyan leader what he thought of the reports that his country is trying to improve its relations with the United States and the West in general, including Britain. He replied:

[Begin recording] We do not need to establish relations with Britain or even the United States. Even if we boycotted them until doomsday it would not hurt us. [end recording]

Al-Qadhdhafi Views Chad, Amman Summit

NC011427 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has reiterated that the Lebanese fighters who came to Libya did so to defend Libya and fight against imperialism. In a statement to the AL-SAFIR newspaper, published today, Al-Qadhdhafi said that Libya is the center for all pan-Arab revolutionaries and is now being threatened by France and the United States. It is not being threatened by Chad at all. An anti-Libyan alliance has been formed, comprised of the United States, France, Egypt, Israel, Zaire, and the Ivory Coast. Chad is merely the 'and used by all these hostile forces. The French brought a black military division into Chad, and so did the Americans. The arms come from Egypt and Israel and the training officers come from Egypt, Israel, the United States, and France. We are actually confronting armies and Habre is only a mask used by these armies, he declared.

Hence, he continued, the Arab revolutionary fighters rushed to defend their headquarters, Libya. They did not come to fight Chad. Some of the commanders of these fighters told Habre that the Lebanese and Palestinian fighters did not come to fight against Chad, because there is no problem between Libya and Chad, but only to fight against imperialism. These commanders even advised Habre to get rid of imperialism, as this would resolve the Chadian problem. But it seems that this decision can only be made by the United States, which asked Habre to fight against Libya in return for military, financial, and food assistance, Al-Qadhdhafi said.

In his statement, Al-Qadhdhafi described the harassment to which the Lebanese are being subjected in certain African states as a dirty racist action.

The Libyan leader assailed the Egyptian regime and the Amman summit, saying that the massacres of the Palestinian people after the Gorbachev-Reagan summit represents a provocation against Arab dignity and a new scandal for the Arab states that restored ties with Egypt. The Libyan leader asked: Why does Egypt keep silent

over the slaying of Palestinians when Gaza belongs to Egypt? Also, why is it slaying the Nasirites in Egypt? It is doing so because it is a strong ally of Israel, he stated.

In response to a question, the Libyan leader said: We consider the unity of the Palestinian resistance under the PLO leadership a pan-Arab demand, but since the PLO is linked with Yasir 'Arafat now, those who are opposed to 'Arafat seem to be opposed to the PLO. This should not be the situation. We must differentiate between the two. I insist on the unity of the Palestinians within the PLO, otherwise we will not be able to solve the Palestinian problem.

Asked about reconciliation between the Syrians and Yasir 'Arafat, the Libyan leader replied that the Libyan and Syrian analyses of this matter are identical. He added: Reconciliation can only be achieved by making concessions. When we accept and shake hands with King Husayn, we might as well accept and shake hands with Yasir 'Arafat.

He added that Syria is aware that King Husayn is a traitor and has been holding secret negotiations with the Israelis since the days of Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan. But Syria has established relations with Husayn so that he will not go to the enemy and enter into direct negotiations that will end up in an another Camp David agreement. Syria is acting under duress and not out of conviction. It might have been forced to shake hands with Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]; this is not an impossibility, Al-Qadhdhafi stated.

The Libyan leader assailed the Amman summit and its results. He said: I have made many attempts to mend Arab dissension, and I made titanic efforts to stop the Gulf war. We managed to prevent this war from extending to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Amman summit decided to restore relations with Egypt, and this has foiled our efforts which were very near to success. What we mended broke down again at the Amman summit, and that is why I believe a wave of violence, such as liquidations, revolutions, and uprisings, will hit Arab capitals in the future. I expect several heads to roll during the next few years, he said.

The Libyan leader affirmed that the U.S. ambassador in Amman had played a basic role in the Amman summit.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Students on Revolution

LD032337 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] [Announcer] Within the framework of the instigatory role of the leader of the revolution to emphasize the revolutionary discourses and the building of the ideal Jamahiriyah, and to create the generation of revolutionary anger which will unite and liberate the Arab nation and resist the crusader invasion and reinforce the cause of freedom in the world, the brother leader of the revolution has, since the begining of the current educational year, 1397, from the death of the prophet corresponding to 87-88 A.D., met with the students who have been accepted in the colleges of The Great Al-Fatih University for Medical Sciences, Al-Nasir International University, Al-Raya al-Khadra' University for Engineering Sciences, and the College of Agriculture at the Al-Fatih complex of universities.

[Begin Al-Qadhdhafi recording] (?We should not teach subjects) in which we are unable to provide work for graduates. [chants] If we teach you electronics, and after graduation you do not find work in Libya, you would be obliged to leave for a country that has work in electronics. The occupied lands use electronics against Arabs. If we were unable to use electronics we should not open this door, or teach electronics. You might learn pharmacology and manufacture of medicine, however, you will not find a factory for medicine in Libya and you will end up as a clerk with a register before you to record the visitors. You would search for a place or a country with factories and plants because you have learned how to manufacture medicine.

Because you are not aware you will find yourself either in Britain, Germany, Italy, Israel, or with the Americans instead of staying in your country and managing to use electronics and managing to set up a medicine factory because it represents the trench from which you fight. You do not know the trench or fighting and you do not know the ways and means for fighting, for you have not read anything about it. It is not your fault; it is the fault of those people who claim to be undertaking ideological education and who are responsible for youth in the secondary and the intermediate schools, ensuring that they pass this program.

Why should the Jews come to Palestine if they were not aware? Why should a Jew come to Palestine and fight you? He used to be unable to distinguish between Palestine and Finland. He comes there because he knows Palestine and that he is one of the sons of Israel, and that the sons of Israel were in conflict with the Canaanites and with the Arabs, and that Nebuchadnezzar took them into captivity in Babylon and destroyed their dynasty, and that the pharaoh had expelled them, and that the Romans [word indistinct] and that Hitler had put them in the gas chambers.

All of this was taught to them and they became aware, so they have said to themselves: We, the Jews, have suffered all of these tragedies everywhere and every time throughout history, so we have to possess power, nuclear bombs, and arms and will slaughter the world as they had did us. They are aware; had they not been, they would not have occupied Palestine. Now the Jew is fighting you with awareness. He knows that you are his enemies. So, you are a nation exposed to danger. They have planted

danger for you [words indistinct]. The United States is attacking you, as well as France and the British, and you are sitting not knowing that you are being attacked from all directions.

The United States wants to stretch its arm over the Arab area on its way to the Soviet Union. How will it reach it? By crossing the Atlantic Ocean, then Europe, where it is now present, and then by asserting its presence on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea. It is determined to acquire the Arab homeland. How to seize it? If there was a revolution, it undermine it; if there was a leader working toward liberation, destroy him; if there was a power, eliminate it; if there was unity in the offing, prevent it; and if there was an economic power, undermine it. It intends to keep us weak, always seizing our resources for the benefit of its factories and Europe's factories. Whether it was the United States or Europe it does not matter so much; the important thing is this homeland must not be allowed to be strong. [chanting]

Europe is an advanced industrial and military force; it is looking for raw materials, consumer markets, and simple-minded people to consume what it produces. We are a consumer area. We are a disjointed area, a great vacuum having no industrial force and no military strength—and no political force that can fill the vacuum.

Naturally, Europe wants to fill the vacuum in our area. We call it military expeditions, multinational companies, cultural colonialism, economic colonialism, neocolonialism—call it what you like. It is a flow from the high pressure area to the low pressure area. It is just like the air you see in the weather forecasts. An area having high pressure is one in which the air is greater inside it; and the other area has air that is low. This air flows to fill that area in the same way as the theory of the pots [words indistinct] which you have been taught in the primary schools. The water keeps on flowing until it fills the vacuum and reaches its own level.

This is the struggle between us and Europe and between us and the United States, and even between us and the Israelis. It is a challenging operation. You are not able to entrench your feet on your soil. You lack culture. The culture of others comes along to teach you culture. You now say: [words indistinct] radio, television; what does this mean? It means there is a vacuum in the words you have. You took the things from Europe and you kept on calling them by telephone. This is because you have a vacuum, a lack of words. You are not able to use a word in place of another.

They brought you an instrument through which you speak. What do you call it? If you want to buy it or repair it, or if for example you say: I want to speak to you at such and such hour—what do you use to talk to me? You are compelled to use it. You failed to fill the vacuum created by this word. It remained vacant. The European word came along: Telephone. You said: Telephone. It is you. For instance, when they brought this instrument along you should have called it: Hatif. The word telephone has an equivalent: Hatif. You failed to fill this vacuum by not using the word hatif.

You have no military force. Europe came along with an occupying military force. If you had a military force, the European forces would not be able to stand up to your force. If the Arabs are an industrial force and if you manufacture and make use of your manufactured products, the Europeans would not be able to find their way to you. But today, most of the manufactured products that come to you from Europe and that are not so useful come to you from Europe and find a market in your countries. [end recording]

[Announcer] The brother leader of the revolution also met yesterday with students at the secondary certificate school of the Abi Slim Municipal Branch. He met today with the secondary certificate students at the Hay al-Andalus Municipal Branch within the framework of preparations to launch the historic battle of the unification of the Arab nation and its liberation:

[Begin Al-Qadhdhafi recording] The struggle continues. Who said that the struggle is over or that it is by means of gunpowder, bullets, and guns only? This would be the final means. However, the bullet and the gun require science. They require that one learn how to make a gun, to learn chemistry to be able to make (?gas) or gunpowder, to learn how to make an aircraft. An engineer has to learn how to repair an aircraft, a tank, or a cannon. All this requires science.

Science is the base for everything. If we lose the battle of science then we lose the final battle—that of our existence. And what is the value of our existence?

We are a nation facing a serious challenge. The United States is an imperialist power endeavoring to dominate the world. Europe has created the EEC and is forming a dangerous political and economic bloc. India is a nuclear power. The socialist bloc is another superpower. China constitutes 25 percent of the earth's population. The yellow race—China, Korea, Japan, Thailand—all these want to unite together as the yellow race. They are feared because they may become strong, industrialized, united, and they may become a danger to the Soviet Union and the United States. This is the reason for the rapprochement between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The world is transforming into blocs. He who is not a bloc cannot survive. They all have desires in the Arab homeland, whose map is not clear here. [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing at map of the world] This is a strategic region relating to all the continents of the world. The Arab world is the heart of the world. They do not want a power to develop within it and dominate it. They want to dominate it themselves. [students chanting slogans] [end recording]

Al-Qadhdhafi Message on Ties With Tunisia

LD041023 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0907 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has sent a cable to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid in reply to the cable that he sent on the restoration of normal relations between Tunisia and the Great Jamahiriyah. Here follows the text of the cable:

I have received your cable on the restoration of normal relations between Tunisia and the Great Jamahiriyah, which is a natural development resulting from the correction of the situation on 7 November, a memorable date which will have its effects on the region.

Your personal efforts, as well as all our other brothers' efforts in the sisterly, sincere, and faithful Algeria, which you exerted in the past year in order to achieve such a step—efforts stemming from your belief in the need to work for the establishment of Arab Maghreb unity, as well as Arab unity, in accordance with your perception of the need for raising the Arab nation to the level of the challenges it faces in this era—are much appreciated.

Finally, may I once more express my appreciation for your efforts which we can never forget. Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Your brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Foreign Liaison Source on Relations With Egypt

LD311513 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1427 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli 31 Dec (JANA)—Media organs have relayed a statement attributed to 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, foreign minister of the Egyptian regime, in which he said that Libya and Syria are fraternal countries and there is no animosity between them and Egypt. The Egyptian minister stressed his country's welcome to any Arab mediation which might lead to greater rapprochement.

A source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, in reply to a question by JANA, commented:

First: The great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has repeatedly, in deeds and words, expressed that the relations between Egypt and Libya are relations of fraternity and unity of destiny, and that what binds the Arab people in both countries is stronger than any relationship between any other two countries in the region.

Second: The great Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has repeatedly stressed that there are no problems obstructing the resumption of relations between the two fraternal countries other than the involvement of the Egyptian regime in the agreements of shame and disgrace with the Zionist enemy which led to grave consequences for the Arab nation and especially to Egypt.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Receives Egypt's Butrus Ghali

JN311157 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Dec (SUNA)—This morning, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met with Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs. They discussed bilateral ties and ways to strengthen them.

Dr Ghali told SUNA that he and Al-Mahdi reviewed the outcome of Ghali's African tour. It has so far taken him to Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya. The Egyptian official added that this African tour is aimed at exploring how peace can be established in the region. He called his meeting with Al-Mahdi positive and constructive, and said that it was part of ongoing consultations between Egypt and Sudan.

Dr Ghali has also called on the chairman of the State Council to brief him on his African visit. This tour is part of Egypt's mediation effort to ease recent tensions between Sudan and Ethiopia.

Sees 'Great' Chances for Peace

JN311635 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1531 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] In a press statement he made today following his meeting with Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that the possibilities of peace with both the rebel movement and with Sudan's neighbor Ethiopia are great.

Al-Mahdi said that the problem of southern Sudan can be resolved as long as Sudan recognizes such a problem exists.

The prime minister maintained that the problem will not be solved by force of arms, that armed conflict will only bring further losses, and that the essence of the problem can be solved peacefully.

Al-Mahdi asserted that the problems of Sudan and Ethiopia can be solved, and that the resources of the two countries must be directed toward building and development. He also noted that this is particularly true since the two countries have agreed on the policy of good-neighborliness and can additionally agree on just formulas to solve the rebel movements in the two countries.

The prime minister then noted that Sudanese-Ethiopian relations are not connected with the problem of southern Sudan.

Al-Mahdi said the two countries have agreed to hold a meeting, and what remains is to determine the venue of the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian ministerial committee. He indicated that Sudan will present a detailed paper on bilateral relations at such talks.

Al-Mahdi declared that he will meet with President Mengistu Haile Mariam at the conclusion of the meetings of the joint committee. Sudan and Ethiopia had agreed to hold the joint committee talks on 7 January 1988. Sudan has proposed six African states as a venue for the meetings, namely: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Egypt, Nigeria, and the Central African Republic.

The prime minister noted that the results of Butrus Ghali's African tour are very positive. Ghali had briefed Al-Mahdi on his tour during their meeting. The Egyptian official visited Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya in addition to Sudan.

Talks With Ethiopia Set for Cairo on 7 Jan

JN030723 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0635 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Jan (WAKH)—Press reports here today mention that positive developments for eliminating tension in relations between Sudan and Ethiopia will take place in the next few days.

AL-ITTI'IAD cites a diplomatic source in Cairo as saying that intensive contacts between Addis Ababa and Khartoum over the past 2 days have resulted in an agreement to convene a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries in Cairo on Thursday [7 January].

The source said that six African capitals, including Kampala, Nairobi, and Djibouti, have been considered for such a meeting. However, it was finally agreed to hold the talks in Cairo after Egypt expressed its readiness to host such a meeting as part of its contribution to improving relations between the two countries.

Qaysan 'Liberated,' Garang Forces 'Crushed'

EA011601 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Excerpt] A dispatch from the radio team in Al-Damazin says that the brave Armed Forces this afternoon liberated the town of Qaysan and crushed the forces of rebel agent John Garang and his supporters. The Sudanese flag now flies high in the sky over the town. The decisive battle began at 0500 today and continued for hours. After this, the rebel hordes fled [words indistinct], and victory for our steadfast Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

2 Ethiopians 'Arrested'

JN021743 Khartoum SUNA in English 1717 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 2 (SUNA)—Two Ethiopian troops were arrested during the attack on the border town of Qaysan which was recaptured by the Armed Forces yesterday, a reliable source at the General Command said today.

The source said the two Ethiopian troops had revealed very important information that evidently prove Ethiopia's involvement beside the rebels during the fighting.

The source added that the Ethiopian troops had shifted two rocket propellers [launchers] from Kurmuk town to Qaysan for boosting the rebels.

SPLA on 'Faked Battle'

EA021509 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA dismissed as an obnoxious and callous, naked lie Khartoum's claim that they captured Qaysan yesterday after a fierce battle that started at dawn and lasted 5 hours. The spokesman said that this is another fabrication in the string of lies Khartoum has carefully orchestrated in the last 2 months, a system applied, designed to deceive, and mobilize certain sections of the Sudan community along racial and sectarian lines, to solicit foreign support, and to raise the low and sagging morale of Khartoum's Army.

The truth about Qaysan is that there was never a battle for Qaysan and not a single SPLA soldier nor Khartoum soldiers was killed on 1 January 1988. Khartoum only designed a faked fighting in Qaysan on 1 January 1988 to flavor independence celebrations. Consistent with SPLA policy of classical guerrilla warfare in Southern Blue Nile, the SPLA evacuated Qaysan 72 hours before Khartoum's faked battle, who claim that there was a fierce battle lasting 5 hours and that the SPLA suffered heavy casualty [as heard] as absurd and shameless lying to the Sudanese people and the world.

The SPLA war in Southern Blue Nile is going on according to plan, and we assure the two ruling families that the war in Southern Blue Nile will cost them dearly with minimum losses to the SPLA.

Ethiopian Soldier Seeks Political Asylum

JN311622 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1512 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Al-Damazin, 31 Dec (SUNA)—Lieutenant Colonel Hassan Sayyid Mustafa, director of the military intelligence branch of the 14th Brigade, has indicated that Ethiopian soldier Adani Wolde Rufael Koffi, who surrendered to the Sudanese forces in Kurmuk yesterday, Wednesday, has sought political asylum. He added that Adani's request will be studied either in Khartoum or Wad Madani, in the Central Region. He also stressed that the statements Adani made concurred with the information available to the military intelligence service from other sources. [passage omitted]

Reveals Cuban 'Conspiracy'

JN311615 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Al-Damazin, Southeastern Sudan, 31 Dec (SUNA)—In a news conference held here today, Thursday, Ethiopian soldier Adani Wolde Rufael Koffi, who surrendered to the Sudanese forces in Kurmuk yesterday, revealed new elements of the Ethiopian-Cuban conspiracy against Sudan. He also exposed the continued support of these two sides for the rebel forces headed by agent hireling John Garang.

In reply to a question posed by correspondents, Adani stated that he voluntarily surrendered to the Sudanese Army on 30 December 1987 to express his rejection of the existing political situation in Ethiopia.

Adani pointed out that he participated in the Kurmuk invasion in his capacity as a soldier belonging to the 131st Brigade. He added that the size of the Ethiopian forces that participated in the occupation of Kurmuk is estimated to have been two battalions. Adani then stated that Cuba provided support for the rebels in the eastern Ethiopian border regions near Asmara. He also noted that Ethiopia is training the rebels to use modern weapons and is supervising their use in cities. Adani added that his Ethiopian brigade entered Kurmuk on 21 November with the aim of supporting the so-called SPLA and helping to guard the borders.

In his news conference, the Ethiopian soldier who yesterday surrendered to the Sudanese forces in Kurmuk said that the objectives of Ethiopia's intervention in Kurmuk and its support for the rebels are to convert the Sudanese regime into a Marxist one by supporting the rebel forces in their war against Khartoum. This is now being done by supplying the rebel forces with modern weapons, beginning with tanks, rocket launchers, machineguns, and bazookas.

Adani reported that the Ethiopian regime told them that it is ready to attack Sudan with all types of weapons, including aircraft, and anywhere within its territory should Sudanese forces enter Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian soldier Adani added that the Ethiopian-Cuban support for the rebels even took the form of providing the rebels with physicians who are treating the wounded at Ethiopian hospitals. He further stated that 15,000 Ethiopian soldiers were forcibly recruited into the Ethiopian forces.

Adani then noted that the Ethiopian Army's losses in the Kurmuk battle were 20 persons killed and 40 others wounded. The losses of the rebels, as he saw them, numbered more than 500 persons killed and 3,000 others wounded.

The Ethiopian soldier Adani affirmed that the defeat of the rebels at Kurmuk was well received by Ethiopian soldiers, due to the cruel treatment they received from the Ethiopian regime and the rebels. Adani added that the morale of the rebels and of the Ethiopian and Cuban forces, who viewed the defeat with nervousness and concern, had deteriorated. He also indicated that the commander of the Ethiopian forces supporting John Garang is Micheal [name as received]. Adani additionally noted that the Ethiopian commander at the Kurmuk battle is known as Haile Mariam [name as received], and that he was supervising the work of the rocket launchers.

The Ethiopian soldier Adani Wolde Rufael, who surrendered to the Sudanese forces in Kurmuk, said that the remnants of the rebel forces and the Ethiopian forces supporting them are currently stationed on the Ethiopian borders. He added that these units are estimated to be two Ethiopian battalions and one rebel battalion. Adani then noted that two of the four rocket launchers involved in the Kurmuk invasion were sent to support the rebels forces in Qaysan.

The remaining two are stationed at a rebel camp in Khawr al-Gana. Adani pointed out that each of these 4 rocket launchers has 40 barrels. He went on to say that Major General Bamata, who formerly accompanied John Garang, was the point of contact between Garang and the Ethiopians.

On the other hand, the Ethiopian soldier Adani said that the Ethiopian regime has grown accustomed to forcibly giving Ethiopian Army recruits lessons on Marxist theory and socialist education. The Ethiopian soldier then added that a wave of hatred and internal opposition to the Ethiopian regime is growing continuously, due to various factors. The most important of these reasons is the forcible conscription of children to make them participate in internal wars.

The Ethiopian soldier Adani appealed to his brothers who are being recruited into the ranks of the Sudanese rebel forces to abandon this hostile stand, to protect their lives after they have become certain that the Sudanese Armed Forces are capable of harvesting, killing, and [indistinct word] them.

Adani also called on the Sudanese rebels to once again seek refuge within the homeland after the Sudanese have realized that Sudan is a fountain of peace and love for all of its sons. This is contrary to the indoctrinations instilled in the rebels by John Garang and his henchmen.

In another development, Maj Gen Zayn al-'Abidin Qasamallah, retired, commander of the 2d Infantry Division, sent a message to the rebels. This message appealed to them to allow their minds to make the proper decision, since they are waging a losing and unjustifiable war. He asserted to them that the Sudanese forces are fully prepared to exterminate them in any encounter.

Maj Gen Qasamallah, retired, particularly called on the young to reconsider the terrible consequences of being used as tools in such wars. He asked them to refuse to obey the orders of their leaders and units, and said that these instructions are forms of forcible conscription of which they are victims.

Maj Gen Zayn al-'Abidin Qasamallah, retired, had earlier made a press statement in which he pointed out that the objective of the news conference the Ethiopian soldier held is to acquaint public opinion with the People's Armed Forces' continued harassment of the fifth column and the rebel forces. He added that this news conference also sought to expose all types of aggression perpetrated against Sudan, whether carried out by persons or by weapons.

Maj Gen Qasamallah, retired, continued by saying that the particular reference made here is to the Ethiopian aggression. He noted that the news conference was also prompted by a desire to acquaint public opinion with the role of the Ethiopian intervention on the side of rebel leader John Garang—a matter that undermines Sudanese security.

In statements he made earlier here today, Qasamallah said that the Armed Forces seized an Ethiopian vehicle in Aru in the Shali region. The vehicle type is Zil 6-6, that it is Ethiopian, and that it has an Ethiopian nameplate. He noted that this provides additional material evidence confirming the Ethiopian aggression against Sudanese territory. Maj Gen Qasamallah, retired, then added that this vehicle will reach Ad-Damazin from Shali today and that it will be put on public display.

Iraq Provides 'Large Quantities' of Arms

LD022035 Kuwait KUNA in English 1803 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 2 (KUNA)—Large quantities of weapons, ammunition and other military equipment have recently been airlifted from Iraq to Sudan, SUDAN NEWS AGENCY reported Saturday.

The weapons, which included rockets, rocket launchers and heavy guns, were ferried into Sudan by Iraqi Airforce transport planes, the agency said.

The leader of the co-ruling Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani, who recently paid a visit to Iraq following the occupation of the Sudanese border towns of Kurmuk and Qaysan by the rebels to seek military assistance, Saturday gave banquet in honour of the crews of the Iraqi transport planes who executed the airlift.

Addressing the banquet on behalf of Mirghani, Health Minister Dr Husayn Suliman Abu Salih expressed thanks to Iraq for its assistance to Sudan "to confront foreign aggression which is aimed at its Arab identity."

"What is currently taking place in Sudan is certainly connected with all other threats against the Arab nation's security," Abu Salih said.

28 'Warplanes' Delivered

JN032022 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 31 Dec 87 p 1

[Yusuf al-Shanbali dispatch from Khartoum]

[Text] Military sources in Khartoum yesterday stressed that 28 warplanes, including 8 fighter aircraft, are among the military equipment that Iraq has sent to Sudan. This equipment helped to retake the city of Kurmuk.

The sources emphasized that the equipment was intended not only to confront the situation in Kurmuk and Qaysan, but also to protect the western border.

Israel Said Sending Arms, Officers to 'Rebels'

JN021454 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1436 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Jan (SUNA)—According to reports monitored here, the Kuwaiti magazine AL-NAHDAH issued in Kuwait today, Saturday, cited Western diplomatic sources as saying that Israel has supplied the rebels in southern Sudan with three shipments of weapons and military equipment over the past 3 months. These persons also reported that the latest consignment was transferred to southern areas during the middle of last week. The sources additionally noted that the shipments included machineguns, mortars, field guns, and huge quantities of ammunition.

The Western sources added that five generals from the Israeli reserve forces and the Israeli Army recently visited southern Sudan, met with rebel leaders, and supervised the operations and offensive the rebels launched against the Sudanese Army.

Attempted Coup Within Garang Leadership Noted

JN041104 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1019 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jan (SUNA)—Press reports published here today state that a coup attempt has taken place within the political and military leadership of the Garang movement and some affiliated groups.

The reports said the attempt would have succeeded had it not been for Ethiopia's intervention in the rebel movement's affairs and the support it provided in terms of training, weapons, and propaganda cover. The reports claimed that Carbino, the leader of the coup attempt; Lam Akol and Victor Amon, and a number of the attempt's leaders who are affiliated with the movement have been arrested.

Reports state that the coup attempt was triggered by the coupists' rejection of the exposed intervention of the Ethiopian regime, in terms of using the movement for tackling its crises. They indicated that because some rebel groups have fought battles against the Oromo revolutionaries—actions in which the rebels suffered heavy human and material losses—this has caused discontent among the movement members, who say that carrying arms is purposeless.

At many meetings, the coupists called on the leaders of the movement to respond to the calls for peace following the movement's political isolation. This isolation is due to diplomatic moves the Sudanese Government has made, as well as the Sudanese public's condemnation and denunciation of the movement's barbaric acts.

Western Sahara

Communique Says 93 Moroccan Soldiers Killed

LD312240 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] A communique issued by the SDAR Information Ministry said today that 93 Moroccan soldiers were killed and about 150 others were injured following an attack by the Saharan Liberation Army yesterday, Wednesday, against the Moroccan forces in the (Hawsa) area. The communique said that the Saharan forces captured and destroyed an important quantity of military equipment.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

UK 'Rules of Engagement' Review Urged

LD302100 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2026 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Royal Navy sources tonight played down the encounter between the destroyer HMS York and an Iranian warship in the Gulf.

The York placed itself between two tankers it was escorting when the Iranian ship, equipped with four 40 mm guns and a helicopter landing platform, approached the convoy 35 miles north west of Al-Shariqah in the United Arab Emirates today.

A taped radio conversation between the two warships showed the Iranian first questioned the York.

The incident ended peacefully, like all other encounters to date.

Sources in London said tonight such encounters occurred regularly in the Gulf, largely because of the relatively small area of sea. Nevertheless, the Iranians' action keeps tension high.

The Ministry of Defence refused to comment on the encounter. But a spokesman said: "However, what has happened clearly shows the value of having the Armilla patrol there."

The York intervened as the Iranian vessel turned towards the Panamanian-flagged tanker World Spring. This vessel, and the other ship under escort at the time, the Liberian tanker World Progress, are owned by World Wide Shipping Agency Ltd of Hong Kong.

According to the taped radio conversation, the Iranian vessel asked the York to switch radio channels after the York identified itself as a "British warship", REUTER reports.

The Iranians then said: "Good afternoon, sir, this is Iranian warship 151. Request your tag number."

After the York replied: "This is British warship," the Iranians said: "Okay... ah... You are in formation with two tankers."

"This is British warship. I am in passage in international waters," the York replied.

The convoy then sailed on.

But shadow foreign minister Mr George Robertson is demanding an urgent clarification from Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe about what he is now convinced is a change in the British rules of engagement in the Gulf.

Mr Robertson said tonight: "This particular incident seems to prove clearly that they have changed the rules and policy and that we are now in the business of protecting other ships if there is some element of British or colonial ownership involved.

"All this stuff about no change in the rules of engagement is just not on. If the Royal Navy is to protect all ships in the Gulf with British or colonial ownership, irrespective of the flags they fly, they cannot safely do the job.

"I am writing to the foreign secretary to ask him urgently to clarify these new rules and explain when they were changed from the original decision to protect only red ensign flag holders."

Mr Robertson said he had also asked the foreign secretary how many ships now qualified for protection by the Armilla patrol.

Greek-Owned Cargo Vessel Struck by Missile

NC012016 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1930 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The Greek-owned, 15,275-ton cargo vessel "Alga" was today attacked while 150 miles south of Kuwait. The "Alga," which is Maltese-registered, was struck by a missile, but it is not yet known who fired it. None of the crew, which includes 5 Greeks and 21 foreigners, was injured. The "Alga" suffered only light damage and is now sailing under its own power to Dubayy for repairs.

INA: UAE Fishing Boat Hijacked by Iran

JN310942 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0856 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Ra's al-Khaymah, 31 Dec (INA)—It has been revealed here that Iranian gunboats carried out a pirate operation by hijacking a UAE fishing boat with five fishermen on board. The vessel was fishing in UAE territorial waters 2 weeks ago.

Today's edition of AL-KHALIJ, issued in Al-Shariqah stated that the fishing boat, which disappeared near Al-Sha'm in the Amirate of Ra's Al-Khaymah on 17 December, was then held by Iranian gunboats. The fishermen on board it were also held by Iranian gunboats. The paper pointed out that the boat's owner located his boat in Iran, where 2 days ago he went to look for it. The newspaper, however, did not mention the exact location where the boat was found.

Kuwait

Amir Endorses 1986-87 State Budget

LD031211 Kuwait KUNA in English 1027 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 3 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir has endorsed the final accounts of state budget for fiscal 1986-87 amounting 2.86 billion Kuwaiti dinars [KD], apart from a number of supplementary public budgets.

Amiri decree number 56 of year 1987 appearing Sunday in the official gazette AL-KUWAIT AL-YAWM approved the state budget for fiscal 1986-87 with revenues totalling 1.73 billion dinars and expenditure to the tune of 2.86 billions.

A budget shortfall of 1.302 billion dinars has been financed by drawing from the state's public reserves.

The edict earmarked 173 million dinars, representing 10 percent of overall revenues, to a posterity fund.

Decree 57 endorsed the final accounts of the public institution for social security showing revenues of 427 million dinars compared with 195 millions in expenditure, and registering net proceeds worth 232 millions.

Other supplementary budgets put the revenues of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) at almost 17 million dinars, about 6,000 dinars above expenses.

And the Ports Public Authority [PPC] suffered a budget deficit of 2.5 million [KD] against total revenues of 17 million. The deficit was to be covered from PPC's special reserves.

The Central Bank of Kuwait netted profits worth 33.7 million dinars from revenues totalling 39.7 million and expenditure of six million, and the excess is to be transferred to the state's general reserves.

The Shuwaybir area authority had a budget surplus amounting 3.1 millions [KD] from revenues of 18.5 million that is to be redirected to state treasury.

The national housing authority recorded revenues of 16 million [KD] against expenditure worth 150 million, with the deficit being financed by a variety of public resources.

Another executive order put the final accounts of KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY at 3.1 million [KD] revenues and an equal amount of expenses.

Kuwait Airways Corporation recorded net profits 233,000 dinars against revenues of 129 million dinars.

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development registered an income of 107.3 million [KD] that is to be added to the fund's general reserves.

Fund revenues reached 110.9 million [KD] against expenses of 3.6 millions.

PDRY

'General' Amnesty, Exceptions Announced

EA011541 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council, has issued a decree from the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council. This decree concerns the general and comprehensive amnesty. The first article of the document stipulates the granting of a general and comprehensive amnesty to anyone who perpetrated or contributed directly or indirectly to any of the crimes linked to the 13 January conspiracy of 1986. These were punishable under Penal Code No 3 of 1976.

The second article in the decree makes it clear that those who were convicted by the supreme court of the Republic in criminal case No 3 of 1986 and were sentenced to death or the restriction of their freedom are excluded from the application of this decree.

The third article provides for the cancellation of Decree No 17 of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council. The remaining articles of the decree provide for its implementation from its date of issue and its publication in the official gazette.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Syrian Foreign Minister

LD311342 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1315 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Dec (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received a verbal message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The message was conveyed by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who was received by the king today. He was accompanied by Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs.

Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh region; Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister; and Muhammad al-Tall, Syrian ambassador to the Kingdom, also attended the meeting.

Defense Deputy on 'Importance' of Syrian Ties

LD031721 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1520 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 3 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, has asserted the importance of ties between the Kingdom and Syria. He also described these relations as continuous and ever-developing ties under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. His highness indicated, in a

statement to SPA in Riyadh prior to his departure for Syria, that his visit to the Syrian Arab Republic comes within the framework of the continued cooperation between the two countries.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz asserted that his visit to Syria is the visit of a brother to his brethren. He added: When we arrive in Syria, we feel as if we are still in the Kingdom. This is a matter that has been known since the days of the late King 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God's mercy be upon his soul. [passage omitted]

Leaves for Syria

LD031501 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, departed Riyadh this afternoon for the Syrian Arab Republic. He is paying an official visit at the invitation of Lieutenant General Mustufa Talas, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of defense. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Addresses Kurdish Fighters

JN022043 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1828 GMT 2 Jan 88

["Full recording" of a speech by President Saddam Husayn during a reception to decorate a number of Kurdish fighters for valor on 2 January—place not given; recorded]

[Text] I am happy to meet with the heroes of Iraqi Kurdistan. Through you and through all the fighters who are enlisted in the National Defense Regiments [afwaj al-difa' al-watani] and the Popular Army ranks, we demonstrate to the entire world that Iraq consists of troops. Iraq is an army. He who thinks of mounting an aggression against Iraq should not only calculate how many volunteers there are in the Armed Forces but also take into consideration the entire population. If he wants to commit aggression against Iraq or harm our dignity, he should take into consideration the number of those who can take up arms.

Thanks to the fighters who make sacrifices, like you and your brothers in the National Defense Regiments and the special squads [al-mafariz al-khassah] who confront the aggressive, usurping Iranian enemy, a new phenomenon has appreared in Iraq, especially in modern times. For the Kurds to fight the army of aggression in Kurdistan, this is an unprecedented phenomenon, despite the fact that we are aware that many of you have always fought evil in defense of Iraq and Kurdistan whenever Iraq was exposed to evil. Many of you fought agents from within and now you are confronting the foreigners who are trying to harm the dignity of the Iraqis by occupying Iraqi territory.

I do not want to talk to you about your ability and the ability of your Armed Forces because you are witnessing it. You are aware of your ability in the National Defense Regiments and of the ability of the Army ranks. Now the world is speaking of the expanding Iraqi ability and the shrinking ability of the enemies of Iraq, the evil, aggressive, and suspect Iranian regime, the agent of Zionism. I say agent of Zionism because I do not believe Zionism is the agent of the Iranian regime. Those who deal with Zionism in the same way the Iranian rulers are dealing must eventually be agents of Zionism who are driven by Zionism and not vice versa.

I have confidence in our Kurdish people just as I have confidence in our people in Basra, Maysan, Salah al-Din, and Samarra'. I have confidence in our Kurdish people in [word indistinct], Al-Sulaymaniyah, Dahuk, and in all areas and villages of Kurdistan. In the past, the Iraqis fought on the level of their tribes and cities. In other words, they fought in accordance with traditions in their cities, tribes, and families. They used to say this tribe fought better than that one, this family fought better than that one, and this city fought better than that one. In addition to these traditions, the good traditions, we should adhere to other good traditions. We should adhere to the inherited good traditions. We should highlight the truthfulness of one of the families. We should say that this family is truthful and should continue to be truthful. The faithful family in Iraq must be highlighted. We should say this family is faithful. We should increase the number of faithful families.

The fighting tribe should be highlighted and all of the tribes, cities, and villages should become fighters. In addition to the good characteristics of your families and tribes, you have joint characteristics, the characteristics of new Iraq and the new Iraqi sons who are good fighters, truthful, faithful, honest, and loyal. We find these traits in Kurdistan, Dahuk, Irbil, Al- Sulaymaniyah, Al-'Imarah, Al-Najaf, and Baghdad.

Regarding the north, we will not forget it. The order, the state, and the new concepts reached the Al-Najaf area before they reached Al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil for reasons you know well. Iraq's circumstances were difficult from 1969-1970 or from late 1968 after the revolution until 1970. From 1970-1974, there were special circumstances. Although it was peacetime, Barzani [former Kurdish leader] tried to prevent the concepts of the revolution and new Iraq from reaching the sons of Kurdistan. From July 1974 to July 1975, there was fighting.

Therefore, these concepts were not allowed to reach you as they reached the inhabitants of Baghdad, Nineva, and Kirkuk. But after that date, the unified concepts of Iraqis as citizens of one people who have one fate, one homeland, and one future began to reach the sons of Kurdistan regularly and in one form or another. Therefore, the number of the bad elements is decreasing, while the number of the good elements like you is increasing because there is more joint understanding of the affairs of life and unified Iraq.

In the past, for example, there were more mistakes by state organs. Now, the mistakes have decreased. Mistakes took place because there was little experience in the region and because they did not allow the govenrment to act freely. Errors are also natural in human beings. Mistakes have decreased. This does not mean there are no mistakes. I am sure there are mistakes. However, I know that we, you, and all the good people in our beloved northern region are determined to decrease mistakes.

The advisers of the National Defense Regimentsand those in charge of the special squads should be a model. They should not do wrong against the people. This will promote a stable, natural life in Kurdistan. As for the bad elements, they can be divided into categories. We will not be lenient with the traitors. We will not be lenient with the traitors now or in the future. You know when we say something we do not say it for the fun of saying it. The traitors, be they Arabs, Kurds, or others, will be justly punished.

As for the person who commits mistakes, we should first help him and tell him he should rectify himself. If he needs an opportunity to correct his behavior, we give him this opportunity because he is our son and brother. We want to reduce the number of those who deserve to be struck by the sword of the law and increase the good ones who contribute toward building great Iraq, who enjoy Iraqi wealth, and who have the honor of defending Iraq against aggression.

If someone makes a mistake and needs a chance, we will give him that chance and take care of him, that is, we will show him his mistakes. If someone has a chance and does not exploit it properly, then we have the right to apply the law against him. He who has a chance and rectifies himself will make us happier than himself—happier because we will have won a new Iraqi over to our side from the deviators and wrongdoers. This Iraqi will be added to the good Iraqis.

We hope that in addition to defending the homeland—and we are fully aware of your work and your responsibilities in the regiments—you will perform an educational task. We want you to prevent the members of your regiments from harming Kurdish citizens. When we reduce the number of wrongs done against the Kurdish citizen, be these wrongs by the National Defense Regiments or any state organ, then we make it easy for him to make a proper decision against the wrongdoers. We will make it easy for him to decide that he is part of great Iraq and the new Iraqi concepts.

However, when wrongs multiply, the enemies of Iraq will exploit them and say that this policy is no good and that the policy of the National Defense Regiments, the Armed Forces, or any state organs is no good. We are, of course, aware that the Armed Forces men are better disciplined than those who are with you for well-known reasons. The Armed Forces elements are trained militarily, they have certain policies, and they have commanders and ranks. They live within military units. Most of you are from the tribes of Kurdistan, mostly [word indistinct]. However, we are confident that when we carry out our responsibilities in reducing mistakes—each from his own position and place—we will be able to reduce wrongs.

Please give our greetings to your men of the National Defense Regiments and special squads and all the men who fight in Kurdistan. Convey to them the leadership's greetings and appreciation. We will watch your coming battles with the enemy and we hope you will be more successful than before, despite the fact your previous battles call for pride. Through you we send our greetings to our dear people in Kurdistan. I leave you in God's care.

Saddam Husayn Addresses Awards Ceremony
JN031634 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has affirmed that Iraq will achieve victory, that its capability is increasing, and that its faith is deep and expanding. His excellency added that faith should be backed by a growing popular awareness and that the people's path and struggle are honorable. There is no alternative to them for preseving Iraq, men's honor, and women's dignity.

After awarding the Al-Rafidayn Military Medal Third Class and other decorations for valor to a number of fighters, President Saddam said: Day after day, your Arab brothers become more aware of you and of the hostility of the Iranian regime. They show greater solidarity with you and understand the historic meaning of your heroic steadfastness. They show this understanding by recording in history what the great people deserve and what should be recorded about them, just as you record it with your blood.

In his talk, the president also said Iraq's enemies will certainly be defeated and that time favors the Iraqis, pointing out that Iraq becomes stronger month after month in all fields to confront the wicked ones.

Addressing the fighters, the president added: You remember that we addressed a message to the Iranian rulers telling them that time will work against them. I believe this was 2 years ago, when they were wagering that time would weaken Iraq's economy. Of course, Zionism teaches them such things. He added: We know Zionism, its role, and what it wants from this war. He said Iraq has made certain calculations and hopes they will resort to peace, but they think our message was intended as indoctrination or psychological propaganda.

President Saddam added: You, as well as the Iranian people, know what happened. Their forces are collapsing and eroding, while your forces are becoming more solid in the face of nature and the evildoers. Your crops are ready for harvesting. Therefore, harvest them, keep them, and be more frugal. You have been frugal during the past 7 years and you must be more frugal in the future so you can reap the fruits of the men who sacrificed their blood—men who are your brothers in the Armed Forces. Everyday you fight with the dignity of men who are fighting in the defense of great Iraq and the struggling, glorious Arab nation.

President Saddam Husayn pointed out that at a time when Iraq's victory is being entrenched and its men's actions are escalating, we find that with the passage of time the Iranian people are abandoning the regime. The proof is that several Iranian opposition leaders, as some of you have heard or seen, are fighting against the Khomeyniite army as if it were a Zionist army. They are fighting this army strongly and defeating it. They in particular, he said, are attacking the Khomeyni Guards. They have captured several of them, bringing them as POW's to their bases and killing many of them.

The president stressed the firmness of the front and the Iraqi forces' high preparedness to deter any of the Iranian regime's aggressive adventures. He said: If the heart of the front is shaken, the front line will be shaken too, because our Army is not a mercenary one imported from abroad. Our Army includes fathers whose sons are building industry in the country and working in the rural areas and in all fields. These sons are also part of the Armed Forces.

The president added: We will officially celebrate victory, God willing. However, I stress that in the coming battle, you should not give them cover even for a day to enable them to say they have occupied a centimeter, a kilometer, or half a kilometer to cover their defeat. Their defeat will be comprehensive, God willing. We will break their bones forever to end this evil in Iran and uproot its cursed ideological roots to prevent it from repeating itself in the form of aggression against Iraq 10, 30, 40, or 100 years from now.

The president said: Some time ago, they gathered what they could. However, we know that what they have now is certainly smaller in number than last year. What they have gathered now is at an even lower level in ideological, psychological, and military preparedness.

The president pointed out that, instead of going to the front, the Iranian rulers and their henchmen began issuing legal judgments to the effect that those who cannot go to the front can pay money instead. The president said that it has been said that the Khomeyni's men do not go to the front because they fear death.

He added: Those who fear death must take care of their sons, brothers, and people. Sons are not only your own sons and brothers are not only your own brothers. The man in charge must consider that the whole people as his own sons and brothers. Some of these sons and brothers are even better than your own sons and brothers if they have better qualities than your direct sons and brothers. This is how we understand the meaning of an official in charge. Not only we, but our grandfathers understood it this way.

The president said: Instead of paying to feed an Iranian soldier for 3 months to allow him to go to the front to fight against the zealous and honorable Muslim Iraqis, the Iranian officials must themselves come to the front.

He also said: It is then supposed that in the next battels we should see a large number of Khomeyni's clergymen. As long as this is a jihad, we should see a large number of them come with the attacking Iranian Army so we can destroy them and the others simultaneously with one blow.

In any case, God willing, the offensive they intend to mount will not occur, so we will at least spare the blood of our sons as well as that of the sons of the Iranian people, who do not wish to fight.

His excellency stressed that the Iraqis know how to drive the aggressors out of any area they have seized and that remorse will be the lot of the Iranians, because they did not respond to the calls of peace and wellbeing.

Concluding, President Saddam Husayn said: They are free to do what they want in their country and we are free to act within our territory, airspace, and territorial waters as well as international waters in accordance with international law. We do not want any additional rights, but at the same time we do not want any fewer. I do not say we will fight endlessly, but to an honorable end, God willing—an end that will bring about their defeat and our victory.

The awards ceremony was attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Ahmad Husayn, director of the presidential office; and Staff Geenral 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs.

Saddam Husayn Honors Ba'th Party Member

JN030851 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Jan 88

["Full recording" of speech by President Saddam Husayn at a ceremony held to award a medal to Ba'th Party member 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin al-Yasin on 2 January—place not given; recorded]]

[Excerpts] I hope the comrades will help me say a word in addition to what I said in writing in the Republican Decree. We should always stress a central slogan which says: Take the Ba'th Party traditions to the state and do not do the contrary. We know that the state is older than the party in Iraq. [passage omitted]

We should honor every good Iraqi citizen before we honor every Party member because as we always say: Just as the Party is the leader of the people, it is also the servant of the people. When a Party member makes a mistake he actually makes two mistakes. However, when the ordinary citizen makes a mistake he actually makes one mistake. The Party memebr's mistake affects the citizen and all party institutions. [passage omitted]

Comrade 'Abd al-Fattah was a member of the command about which he is now talking with pride. Comrade 'Abd al-Fattah is proud of the current leadership not out of hypocrisy, but to show exactly what he has on his mind and conscience. He was a member of this leadership until a month ago. [not further explained] [passage omitted]

Comrade 'Abd al-Fattah is among the comrades who kept their balance after they left a position of high leadership in the Party. He continued to keep his balance and to retain his Ba'thist party qualifications not because he feared the authorities as some people may imagine,

but out of conviction in his conscience and mind. As a result of our long experience we have become able to distinguish between one case and another.

We are not honoring Comrade 'Abd al-Fattah just because he proposed the abolition of his ministry, but because such an action is based on the background I have mentioned. We do not want only to honor those who deserve to be honored— and he deserves such an honor—but we also want to show the values which we Ba'thists believe serve the people more than other values.

All other appearances are mortal—they all come and go: Money comes and goes, after it goes it comes back; children come and go; prestige comes and goes, and I mean prestige . at rests on authority; power and position come and go. However, when values are there they cannot be masked under any circumstances and cannot be prevented from being an example to be followed always.

A war has been going on for 8 years. I do not mean to belittle any other situation elsewhere in the world. We are not only proud because our people have been fighting bravely throughout 8 years and have been defending their sanctities and their country's policy. We are proud of this. However, there are other issues that seem very very small to some. We should explain the ideological background of these issues and their historic significance when they take place under war circumstances.

Is there any army in the Third World that achieved a victory comparable to the heroic Iraqi Army's victories and did not become an alternative [as heard] to their people? Are there any leaders in the world who waged successful, valiant, and brave battles and were decorated with medals in any part of the Third World throughout the past 100 years who did not become dictators against the people? Is there any country not in the Third World but in the whole world which fought a fierce war for 8 years as in Iraq and its capital's streets remained clean as we can see in Iraq? [passage omitted]

I hope God will grant success to our people, nation, and the Armed Forces to strengthen our people and to protect them from all forms of evil on the battlefield and in society. We wish our Party members success to serve the people's principles, God willing.

INA Reiterates Denial of Contacts With Israel

JN031648 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1553 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Bagndad, 3 Jan (INA)—The INA political editor has dismissed the imaginary news appearing in the Zionist newspaper DAVAR the day before yesterday about the existence of some sort of indirect contact between Iraq and the Zionist entity as absolutely baseless and mere sick imagination. He added that such purported news is totally untrue and groundless. Concluding, the INA political editor said: The aims of leaking such news by the Zionist circles are no secret to anyone.

'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad From Kuwait 3 Jan

JN031911 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1816 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Baghdad today from Kuwait. He was received at the airport by the director and members of the RCC Liberation Movements Bureau. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Communique No 2,970

JN311816 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi forces in the II Army Corps sector confronted an enemy force backed by artillery and mortars which attempted to approach our positions. Our forces punished it severely and defeated it. Communique No 2,970 isued by the Armed Forces General Command says the enemy left the bodies of its dead in no-man's-land. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 2,970 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted praising President Saddam Husayn and the Armed Forces' victories during 1987]

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for that night and today:

1. Our brave hawks today carried out successful raids on enemy units in the battlefields. They inflicted new enemy losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment through 47 combat missions. They then returned with their planes safely to base, protected by God.

2. Our brave helicopter gunships today carried out 35 combat missions against the scoundrels' concentrations equipment, and gun emplacements. They inflicted new losses and returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our brave men in the heroic II Army Corps confronted an enemy force which attempted to approach our forward barriers in the central sector last night. They punished it severely, defeated it, and forced it to leave its dead in no-man's-land. Elsewhere in the same sector, a scoundrel was killed, four others were wounded, and two infantry positions were destroyed. Blessed be the lofty men of our II Army Corps.

4. A vehicle was destroyed and burned and its occupants were killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

5. An infantry position and two observation posts were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. Three vehicles were burned and four infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

7. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted on the aggressors the following losses:

The destruction of a 106mm-mortar and the killing of its personnel, the destruction of a gun emplacement, the burning of two vehicles, and the damaging of a shovel [preceding word in English].

8. The brave force of Al-Amiq Port foiled an attempt by 15 enemy boats to approach the port at different times last night and forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 December 1987

Communique No 2,971

JN011723 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,971 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. Our valiant Armed Forces, which defend Iraq's honor and its sons' dignity, have continued their heroic harvest with overwhelming superiority over our Zionist Khomeyniite enemies. The results of our forces' activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. To prevent the criminal Iranian regime from exploiting the revenues of its oil resources for aggression against our people and to reaffirm our ability to crush the means of aggression, our heroic Air Force carried out the following two missions:

a. At 2200 [1900 GMT] yesterday, our valiant hawks pounced on a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast scoring an accurate, effective hit.

b. At 1000 [0700 GMT] today, our aircraft flew a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast scoring an accurate, effective hit.

After flying their missions, our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the II Army Corps central sector, one machinegun emplacement and one infantry postiion were destroyed and one scoundrel was killed.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one vehicle was set on fire and four infantry positions were destroyed.

4. One of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan spotted an enemy group estimated at 20 men. Our unit attacked the group with various weapons, killing most of the group. In the same sector, one medium machine gun and two infantry positions were destroyed.

5. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, three enemy scoundrels were killed and one personnel position was destroyed.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector, one 106-mm gun, one vehicle, and one observation post were destroyed, and two enemy personnel were killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 January 1988

Communique No 2,972

JN021923 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1848 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,972 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 January]]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. With high morale and effective performance, our brave Armed Forces are continuing to carry out their heroic activities in the operation theaters inflicting further losses on the tyrannical aggressors. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. Through its courageous raids, our gigantic Air Force has proved Iraq's capability and its overwhelming superiority over our country's enemies, the treacherous Khomeyniites, inflicting heavy losses on their military equipment. At 1245 [0900 GMT] today, numbers of our planes launched a destructive air raid on the Taleh Zing bridge, northeast of Dezful, which is used for military purposes, and hit their target. After carrying out this heroic duty, our hawks returned safe, victorious, and protected by God to their bases.

2. Two infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants killed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces

3. One of our brave units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah attacked an enemy patrol of 15 personnel and killed most of them. The others fled. Elsewhere in the sector, one scoundrel was killed, one infantry position, one mortar gun, and one vehicle were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

4. One ammunition dump was blown up and one enemy observation post was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Two enemy personnel were killed and two infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris

6. Our units on the VII Army Corps front destroyed one infantry position and one observation post, burned and destroyed a vehicle, and blew up one ammunition dump.

7. The heroic Al-'Amiq Port force spotted nine enemy boats trying to approach the port yesterday. The force confronted it with various types of weapons and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 January 1988

Communique No 2,973

JN031732 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,973 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With deep faith and overwhelming superiority, our brave Armed Forces continued their heroic activities last night and today, inflicting the following losses on our country's enemies:

1. Our heroic Air Force continues its superiority over our reckless enemies and directs effective daily stabs against the dying Iranian regime. Our rapacious hawks today flew 85 combat missions, inflicting on the scoundrel Khomeyniites more losses in personnel, equipment, and weapons. Then they returned safely to their bases, with God's care.

2. The enemy sent a force of 50 scoundrels in an abortive attempt to approach the position of one of our units in the II Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. Our units attacked the force, killing or wounding a number of soldiers and forcing the rest to flee. Elsewhere in the sector, four scoundrels were killed and one vehicle with a 106-mm gun and one infantry position were destroyed.

3. Six enemy personnel were killed and two infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. One ammunition dump was blown up and one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps—Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. One enemy soldier was killed and three observation posts and three infantry positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Two enemy soldiers were killed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

7. Our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris attacked enemy positions opposite them, killing seven people, wounding others, and destroying one single-barreled machinegun, two infantry positions, and one bulldozer.

8. One single-barreled machinegun and two other positions were destroyed on the VII Army Corps front.

9. The criminal enemy shelled residential areas in the city of Al-Zubayr as well as the Bimalik housing area with long-range artillery. The shelling wounded one woman and caused damage to a number of houses. Swift recovery to the wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 January 1988

Attack 'By Mistake' Denied

JN031803 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1738 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jan (INA)—A military spokesman has strongly denied allegations that Iraqi aircraft attacked a non-Iranian oil tanker at 2200 [1900 GMT] last Thursday by mistake. The spokesman said that AFP's allegations in this regard are unfounded and that the Iraqi aircraft attacked an Iranian target in the tanker holding area east of Khark Island. The spokesman added that during their raid the Iraqi aircraft were exposed to antiaircraft fire, a fact which refutes the news agency's allegations.

Spokesman Notes Iranian Losses

JN041415 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1356 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—Iraqi forces have killed eight Iranian soldiers, wounded five others, and destroyed three infantry positions and four machineguns as a result of their military activities in the operational sectors in the past 24 hours. An Iraqi spokesman told INA today that the Iraqi forces also destroyed and set ablaze two observation posts, one tractor, and two vehicles, one of which was large, and blew up three ammunition dumps.

Helicopter Draws Fire Over South Lebanon

TA0216Z5 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Several RPG's were fired at an Israeli Air Force assault helicopter at noon today while it was on a reconnaissance flight over the security zone in southern Lebanon. The helicopter was not hit, and returned fire at the source of the shooting.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that at the same time a South Lebanese Army [SLA] force conducted searches for terrorists north of the security zone, near the village of Maydun. Having come under fire, the SLA soldiers advanced toward the shooters, who managed to escape. [passage omitted]

Air Force Attacks 'Terrorist' Bases in Sidon

TA030514 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Last night the IDF raided terrorist positions of Fatah and Jibril's organization in the Sidon area. The command bases were hit from the air, and our military correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that all the airplanes returned safely to their bases and the pilots reported accurate hits.

Attacks against Israel were planned and organized in the command bases that were hit. Fire was opened from the ground at our aircraft, which in turn returned fire.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus and news agencies' correspondents in Lebanon report that Israeli Navy vessels also took part in the raid and that the Druze ports of Al-Damur and Al-Jiyah as well as targets on the coasts near Sidon and Raja were also attacked. This was the first IDF strike in the area since the night of the hang glider attack. The last Air Force strike in the area took place about 2 months ago.

Powerful 'Terrorist' Radio Begins Broadcasting

TA011922 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] A powerful radio station belonging to the Palestinian terrorists has begun broadcasting this evening, and its broadcasts are being picked up with good quality in Israel and in the territories. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus believes that the station is broadcasting from one of the refugee camps in the Sidon area in southern Lebanon. The name of the station is Yerushalayim [Hebrew for Jerusalem]. This is the first time that the terrorists have such a powerful radio station, which broadcasts on three wavelengths simultaneously, at their disposal.

Peres Replies to 'Moderate' Egyptian Message

TA311715 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] There has been an exchange of messages between the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers in the wake of the disturbances in the territories. Two days ago Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid relayed a message voicing concern about these events. In response, Shim'on Peres sent him a message this evening saying that Israel is definitely committed to seeing to the well-being of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

A message from Egyptian Minister Al-Majid was relayed to the foreign minister's office in Jerusalem 2 days ago, mainly voicing Egypt's dissatisfaction with what has been happening in the territories.

'Abd al-Majid writes in his message: It seems to us that peace cannot be passive or fragmentary. Peace is a constant commitment to stability and security for all the peoples of the region. Peace requires first and foremost a solution to the issues on our agenda based on a genuine sense of justice. The situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is on the brink of explosion and is the natural outcome of the absence of peace and justice which keep Palestinians from having even a flicker of hope.

The Egyptian message stands out for its moderate diplomatic tone and for the things it does not contain. It does not contain a threat about Israeli-Egyptian relations and it does not mention the issue of deportations from the territories. What it mainly does contain is a call for the resumption of the peace process.

A short time ago, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a meeting with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni in order to relay his reply. In his message, Peres writes that once the atmosphere calms down it will be possible to focus our attention on continuing the peace process. I am convinced that together we can find various alternatives for a resumption of the political process as early as in the next few weeks. Peres directs a hint at Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office. I hope, he says, that not only those of us who have not sank in a status quo of inaction but also others will join us in the peace efforts.

As for the events in the territories, the foreign minister reiterates: We are sorry for the tragic events, but we are guided by our unconditional commitment to see to the well-being of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

As said, this message is being relayed to the Foreign Ministry in Cairo this evening.

Mubarak Message Notes 'Concern' Over Escalation
TA0405Z9 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Text] Egypt's President Husni Mubarak has sent a message to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressing concern at Israel's policy of arrests, trials, and deportations in the territories. The message was conveyed in person by the Egyptian ambassador, Muhammad Basyuni, to the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon. In the message, President Mubarak expresses the fear that the current escalation could affect the peace process. An Israeli reply is expected within the next few days.

Darawshah Briefs Shamir on Mubarak Meeting
TA311016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahad Darawshah reported to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that President Husni Mubarak is prepared to meet with him when the peace process is renewed. Darawshah reported today to the prime minister on his talks with the Egyptian president.

Our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Darawshah told the prime minister that Ambassador Sason is finding life in Cairo difficult. The prime minister told him that if Mr Sason was given only half the reception extended to Ambassador Basyuni in Israel his condition would be improved.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 31 December reports that "Egyptian President Husni Mubarak says he would be prepared to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir if the latter works for peace. This is the message MK Darawshah brought to Shamir this morning from his visit to Egypt. Mubarak asked Darawshah to tell the prime minister that despite Egypt's sensitivity to events in the territories its strategy is one of peace and it will continue along the path of peace."]

Shamir To Discuss 'Other' Ideas With Mubarak
TA010655 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will continue to explore the possibility of a summit meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, despite the message delivered yesterday to Shamir by Labour MK [Knesset Member] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah that Mubarak does not wish to meet him unless he has "new" proposals on the peace process, sources close to Shamir said yesterday.

The sources said that Shamir continues to want such a meeting, although he will not budge from his opposition to an international conference. Shamir told Darawshah yesterday that he has "other" ideas on moving the peace process forward, which should be explored with Egypt.

Two months ago, before the current unrest in the territories began, the Egyptians rejected an Israeli suggestion that the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, go to Cairo to hold preliminary and non-binding talks on a possible summit.

Darawshah said yesterday that Mubarak had told him that if Israel deported Palestinian activists, Egypt would have to take steps "up to and including" the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Cairo. [passage omitted]

In the meeting yesterday, Shamir told that many segments of the Egyptian population had failed to "digest" the peace process. The premier said that the rapprochement between Egypt and the PLO had also had a negative effect on relations.

Darawshah quoted Mubarak as saying that despite the current strains in relations, Egypt continues to adhere to the "strategy" of peace.

Israel's ambassador to Cairo, Moshe Sason, is in a difficult situation, told Shamir, since he is being ostracized by both Egyptian society and officials. Shamir replied that if Sason had been accorded even half the hospitality given to the Egyptian ambassador here, his situation would be much simpler.

Darawshah yesterday told THE JERUSALEM POST that he believes that Shamir is committed to reducing the tension in Israeli-Egyptian relations.

Text of 'London Document' on Peace Published
TA011000 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Jan 88 pp A1, 2

[Unattributed report: "The London Document—First Publication of the Full Text"]

[Text] The "London document" between King Husayn and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres does not specifically mention the PLO. Nevertheless, the description of the authority of the UN secretary general, who is supposed to summon the countries to an international conference, does not mention countries but "the parties" to the Israeli-Arab conflict. The detractors of the document argue that this was done intentionally because the PLO can also be included in the framework of "parties."

The agreements in the "London document" were reached by Peres and Husayn in their meeting in London in April 1987.

Following is the full text of the London document, which is being published verbatim for the first time:

Accord between the Government of Jordan, which has confirmed it to the Government of the United States, and the Foreign Minister of Israel, pending the approval of the Government of Israel. Parts "A" and "B," which will be made public upon agreement of the parties, will be treated as proposals of the United States to which Jordan and Israel have agreed. Part "C" is to be treated with great confidentiality, as commitments to the United States from the Government of Jordan to be transmitted to the Government of Israel. A Three-Part Understanding Between Jordan and Israel

—Invitation by the UN secretary general: The UN secretary general will send invitations to the five permanent members of the Security Council and to the parties involved in the Israeli-Arab conflict to negotiate an agreement by peaceful means based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 with the purpose of attaining comprehensive peace in the region and security for the countries in the area, and granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

—Decisions of the international conference: The participants in the conference agree that the purpose of the negotiations is to attain by peaceful means an agreement about all the aspects of the Palestinian problem. The conference invites the sides to set up regional bilateral committees to negotiate bilateral issues.

—Nature of the agreement between Jordan and Israel: Israel and Jordan agree that: 1) the international conference will not impose a solution and will not veto any agreement reached by the sides; 2) the negotiations will be conducted in bilateral committees in a direct manner; 3) the Palestinian issue will be discussed in a meeting of the Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations; 4) the representatives of the Palestinians will be included in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation; 5) participation in the conference will be based on acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 by the sides and the renunciation of violence and terror; 6) each committee will conduct negotiations independently; 7) other issues will be resolved through mutual agreement between Jordan and Israel.

This document of understanding is pending approval of the incumbent governments of Israel and Jordan. The content of this document will be presented and proposed to the United States.

Reciprocal Delegation Seen for USSR Visit

TA040533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The new person in charge of the Soviet consular delegation will arrive in Israel tomorrow. Observers in Jerusalem believe he will bring with him permission for the stay of an Israeli delegation in the USSR. The Soviets also want to extend by several months the visas of their delegation members still in Israel. Our political correspondent reports that the Soviet delegation has sent much information to Moscow on events in the territories.

Wilner Receives USSR, PRC New Year Greetings

TA311446 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 31 Dec 87 p 2

[Text] Knesset Member Me'ir Wilner, the chairman of the Israeli Communist Party, has received dozens of greetings from communist leaders on the occasion of the new year. This is the first time he has received greetings from the Chinese Communist Party leader.

Mr Wilner has also received a personally signed card from Gorbachev saying: "Dear Comrade Wilner! Warm greetings for the New Year 1988. My best wishes for the enhancement and promotion of peace in the world and for the attainment of a just peace in the Middle East for the benefit of all the nations in the area."

Knesset Member Denies Letter Sent to 'Arafat

TA011127 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT 'AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jan 87 pp 1, 6

[Report by Roni Shaqed, news agencies correspondents in Paris, and Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpt] "On 24 December I received a letter from Arye Hess, a Labor Party member, signed by 12 Israeli Labor Party Knesset Members," PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat told the French news magazine LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR.

In the interview 'Arafat says that "in their letter, Hess and his colleagues express their disagreement with what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank and elaborate on the idea of establishing an Israeli-Palestinian confederation. I am prepared to talk to them."

Arye Hess, a member of the Labor Party Central Committee, yesterday said in response: "I did not send a letter to 'Arafat; neither have Knesset Members signed any letter which I, as it were, wrote and which was relayed to 'Arafat. It all comes from the misinterpretation of an interview I gave to a French female journalist.

Some time ago Arye Hess published an open letter to 'Arafat in the East Jerusalem press expounding on the notion of a confederation. About 2 weeks ago he talked with a French female journalist and gave her details about his proposed plan. In that same interview he said that at least 12 Alignment Knesset Members support his ideas. The journalist told Hess that she intends to meet PLO leaders, raise his plan with them, and ask for their comments. It seems that based on this 'Arafat told LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR what he did.

Arye Hess heads the Labor Party circle for an Israel-Palestine-Jordan confederation. He told our correspondent yesterday: "Shim'on Peres received from me all the material pertaining to the confederation option and all the party leaders are aware of my talks on the issue with Palestinian figures in the territories." According to Hess, the only occasion on which he forwarded a message to 'Arafat was 2 months ago, through leftwinger David ish-Shalom and PLO figures in Europe.

In this message Hess asked 'Arafat to continue making statements in favor of a peace agreement and to make more references to the idea of a confederation so as to bring about a change in the atmosphere and the opening of peace negotiations.

Our correspondent has learned that a well-known Palestinian figure called Hess from Paris last night and told him that the PLO is very interested in hearing additional details about his proposed Israeli-Palestinian confederation.

Our correspondent Orli Azulay-Katz adds: A spokesman for the Labor Party stated last night that "the Labor Party objects to any meeting with 'Arafat and to any dialogue with him. Arye Hess's actions were of his own accord, and of his own accord only, and he does not represent the party on this issue. As far as I know, he did not inform party leaders of his intentions in advance." [passage omitted]

Shamir Says 'Limited Number' Will Be Deported

TA011818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir says a limited number of Palestinians who had been involved in rioting will be deported despite American opposition. Speaking at the Israel-American Chamber of Commerce today the prime minister said the Americans should understand the problems of a democratic country trying to defend itself against antidemocratic forces seeking its destruction. It's impossible from a distance to tell someone in his own land how to defend himself against anarchy and attacks against the state, its citizens and its security, he said.

The prime minister said that despite disagreements on how to deal with the riots and on other issues, such as the status of Jerusalem and the borders of Israel, he believes that the friendly relations, strategic cooperation, and economic ties between Israel and the United States will continue.

Israel is in a special situation, said the prime minister. It's a democratic country trying to keep its character, even while it remains in a formal state of war with most Arab countries. The prime minister said he hopes this year will bring progress towards peace in the area. No one is interested in inertia he said, and efforts for peace have to continue, but he reiterated that he remains firmly opposed to an international conference for this purpose.

9 'Activists' Ordered Deported

TA030912 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Deportation orders against nine residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip were issued this morning. All nine are senior activists of terrorist organizations in the territories. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David gives the first details:

Three of those to be deported are residents of Gaza, one is a resident of Khan Yunus, and the rest are residents of Qalandiyah, Bilatah, Ramallah, Qalqiliyah, and the village of Dura.

The deportation orders were issued against the nine residents as result of their activities as senior figures in terrorist organizations, which included incitement and subversion. Some of them were among the chief agitators and organizers of the recent violent disturbances in the territories.

Most of the deported had been imprisoned in the past and served time for acts of terror and agitation. Administrative measures had been taken in the past against several of the deported, but these did not prevent them from pursuing their activities.

Defense circles stress that deportations are part of the punitive policy adopted in recent years against persons whose activity is considered particularly grave. A few details from the past: Since August 1985, 19 residents of the territories have been deported, and 3 more deportation orders are pending. Persons facing deportation have the right to appeal to the advisory committees of the regional commands, which are headed by a military judge, as well as to the High Court of Justice.

Profile of 'Senior Activists'

TA040905 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Jan 88 p 4

[Text] Leading Fatah and Popular Front operatives, journalists, Muslim fundamentalists and terrorists freed in the 1985 Ahmad Jibril exchange are among the nine Palestinians served with expulsion orders yesterday, according to the IDF. They are:

Jibril Mahmud Rajub, 34 deputy editor of the ABIR women's magazine, who lives in the West Bank village of Dura. He is a confidant of Faysal al-Husayni, the director of the Arab Studies Centre who is currently under administrative detention. Rajub is also the author of a book on conditions in an Israeli jail. He spent 15 years in prison for membership in a terrorist cell that carried out about 10 attacks, and was released in May 1985 as part

of the prisoner exchange with Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command. He was rearrested in November 1985 for membership in a hostile organization.

Released in September 1986, he was put under administrative detention until March 1987. The IDF describes him as a "major Fatah operative in the Judaea and Samaria region" who maintains contacts with senior Fatah operatives, agitates the population and endangers security.

Furayj Ahmad Khalil Khayri, 39, from Gaza. Vice chairman of the engineers' union in the Gaza Strip. He served several jail terms for activity in Fatah and possession of firearms. The IDF describes him as "one of the most prominent Fatah activists in the Strip." He maintained contact with Fatah activists overseas and coordinated subversive activities of the organization in the Strip, expanding the Fatah infrastructure and recruiting new operatives. The IDF also says he encouraged the involvement of high school and college students in demonstrations and disturbances, seeing them as the key force for generating disturbances.

'Adil Bashir Nafa Hamad, 27, of the West Bank's Qalandiyah refugee camp. He was sentenced in 1982 for incitement and hostile propaganda and was due for deportation at that time. In 1982 he formed the "Al Shabibah" Fatah youth organization in the camp. The IDF says he organized and participated in disturbances at the camp for seven years, including rock-throwing and tyre-burning incidents, the 1982 destruction of the Qalandiyah police station, and the 1985 burning of the house of a woman suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

Husam Uthman Muhammad Hadar, 26, from the Balatah refugee camp in the West Bank. A graduate of Al-Najah University, he was arrested in 1985 for activity in Fatah and confessed to recruiting for Fatah and training to take part in a terrorist attack, including the killing of a suspected collaborator. He was jailed and released in July 1987. Since his release, he has been one of those responsible for organizing and participating in most disturbances in the camp, according to the IDF.

Bashir Ahmad Khayri, 45, a lawyer from Ramallah. The IDF says he is a senior member of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He was released from jail in 1984 after serving 15 years for placing a bomb that killed several people. In 1970, his name was on a list of terrorists whom the PFLP wanted released in exchange for hostages on planes hijacked and later blown up in Zarqa', Jordan. His activities "have disrupted the population and led to disturbances of public order," according to the IDF.

Jamal Muhammad Shakir Jabara, 28, of Qalkilyah. Jailed in 1979 for planning and carrying out terrorist attacks, and released in the 1985 prisoner exchange. The IDF says he is a prominent Fatah activist. "The Al-Shabibah youth group takes no steps without consulting him," according to the IDF, charging that he was prominent in organizing the riots in Qalkilyah on December 21, 1987.

Muhammad Abu Samara, 26, from Gaza. A student at the Islamic University, Samara was arrested and sentenced four times for anti-Israeli activities. The IDF says he "has extremely radical views and instigates others to engage in activities against the authorities and the army."

Hasan Ghanim Muhammad Abu Shakra, 27, from Kahn Yunus. The IDF says he is a "radical religious fundamentalist" and a prominent activist in the radical "Salifiyun" organization in Gaza. His opinions are very much like those of the Islamic Jihad, and he has incited demonstrators and threatened secular locals. During the recent events in Gaza he incited a crowd to attack "the IDF and the Jews."

Khalil Kuka, 39, of Gaza City, a teacher who is chairman of "Jam'iyah Islamiya," a legal body identified with the Moslem Brotherhood in the Gaza Strip. He served as an imam or prayer leader at the mosque in the Shati refugee camp, but now lives in the Zaytun neighbourhood in the Gaza. The IDF says his sermons called on the Muslims to "fight the Jews in every way, even if many die in the process."

Demonstrators Protest U.S. 'Intervention'

TA010937 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Relatives of victims of hostile activities are currently demonstrating opposite the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. Among the demonstrators are Avraham Moses, Galya Tamam, Sara Almaqayes, and Yisakhar Manos. They are protesting what they call U.S. intervention in Israel's policy of punishing agitators in the territories. [passage omitted]

Renewed Demonstrations Reported in Territories

Protest in Jabalyah 1 Jan

TA010541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Soldiers fired shots in the air last night to disperse a demonstration at the Jabalyah refugee camp, northeast of Gaza city. The protesters were marching on an Army outpost and soldiers warned them to turn back before firing in the air. No one was injured. The Army strongly denied rumors circulating after the incident that one demonstrator had been killed and seven injured.

Curfew Imposed on Balatah

TA010912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The security forces have imposed a curfew on the Balatah refugee camp near Nablus after local inhabitants staged rallies and demonstrations. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that quiet prevails otherwise throughout Judaea and Samaria.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that most of the Gaza shops are closed today because it is Friday, but that apart from this, the situation is normal.

Security Forces' Presence Felt

TA011114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The security forces imposed a curfew on the Balatah refugee camp near Nablus this morning after local youths hurled stones at the security forces and set up roadblocks. Youths from the village of Si'ir in the Hebron District hoisted PLO flags and shouted nationalist slogans, but the security forces soon dispersed the demonstrators. Other Judaea and Samaria places are reported quiet.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that increased security forces presence is clearly felt in all the major roads leading to and from Ramallah as well as in every corner in town. IDF helicopters are hovering above, overseeing the situation.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the Jabalyah refugee camp in Gaza was declared off limits to the press for the duration of prayers in the mosques. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, who toured Gaza, said that he had issued this order so as to avoid any interruptions in the normal course of the prayers. He added that he believes that the majority of the population wants peace and quiet, and that they will prevail.

Rioters in Nabulus Dispersed

TA011422 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jan 87

[Text] The security forces dispersed rioters in the Nabulus casbah with the aid of rubber bullets and tear gas. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

The curfew on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus is continuing. At noon a curfew was also imposed for a short time and immediately lifted on the Nusayrat camp in the Gaza Strip.

Curfew on 2 West Bank Camps

TA011859 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Two refugee camps are under curfew tonight after scattered disturbances during the day at several locations in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

A soldier was grazed in the face when a stone was thrown at a bus near the Bilu junction outside Tel Aviv. The bus windscreen was shattered. [passage omitted]

Curfews remained in force after disturbances in the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus and the Al-Am'ari camp near Ramallah.

Young Palestinians tried to whip up an anti-Israel demonstration after Muslim prayers in Jerusalem today, but gave up when other worshippers ignored them. Chanting "God Is Great" and "We Will Free You Palestine," about a dozen activists tried to form a march from the Al-Aqsa Mosque, but fell silent when thousands of other Muslims, leaving the shrine after prayers, failed to join them.

Inside the city walls Arab traders sold all kinds of merchandise despite calls for a commercial strike. Many shops were locked and shuttered, but residents said this was principally due to the Muslim day of rest and the Christmas and New Year holidays celebrated by Christian Arabs.

Curfew Imposed on Gaza

TA020524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed last night for 48 hours on parts of the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip after stones were thrown at soldiers. The situation is now quiet. The curfews imposed on the Balatah and Al-Am'ari refugee camps in Samaria yesterday have now been lifted.

IDF Decreasing Forces

TA021949 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Quiet prevailed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza over the last 24 hours, and commercial life proceeded normally. [passage omitted]

Several youths tried to riot in Ramallah today but were dispersed by the security forces. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias adds that today too, the security forces were deployed in the territories in preparation for any possible disturbances. [passage omitted]

A gradual decrease of IDF forces in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will begin as of tomorrow, with the forces returning to a regular training framework. This is reported by our army affairs correspondent Moshe

Shlonsky. At the same time, reserve units that were not slated to be called up for active reserve service this year will be called up in the near future for routine security tasks in the wake of the situation in the territories.

186 Detained Rioters Released

TA030719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Some 186 persons detained during the riots in the territories have been released over the last 4 days. The IDF spokesman said that they were released in return for a promise to refrain from repeating the acts that had caused their arrest.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the defense establishment will consider the release of additional detainees depending on future developments.

Woman Killed in Al-Ram Camp

TA031140 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] A woman was killed this morning in Al-Ram camp north of Jerusalem when border police fired shots when they were attacked by a large mob. One of the policemen began shooting when he felt the mob was endangering his life. The woman was wounded and taken to Ramallah Hospital where she died.

Disturbances Follow Killing

TA031430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Disturbances have begun in the village of Al-Ram, north of Jerusalem, following the killing of a woman this morning by shots fired by an IDF soldier. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from the spot that youths are burning tires and hurling stones at border policemen. The police have begun to disperse the demonstrators by using tear gas.

The following details were given about the circumstances surrounding the incident in which the woman was killed: An IDF force was called to the spot after stones were hurled at a vehicle travelling from the direction of the Jerusalem-'Atarot Junction. The force chased some 20 masked youths during which one of the soldiers opened fire, killing a woman aged about 25. The initial investigation into the incident by the commander of the Northern Command [as heard] shows that the force acted against orders. It was therefore decided to suspend the company commander and the soldier who fired the shots until the investigation is completed.

Unrest in Al-Ram, Ramallah

TA041042 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] There were disturbances in Al-Ram village north of Jerusalem this morning. A local young woman was killed in this village yesterday by an IDF soldier's fire. The local residents set tires on fire and threw stones for about 1 and 1/2 hours. The security forces dispersed the demonstrators with rubber bullets and tear gas.

There were also disturbances in the Ramallah region this morning. Tires were set on fire and PLO flags were hoisted on the old campus of Bi'r Zayt University.

West Bank Distubances 4 Jan

TA041231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Quiet has been restored in Al-Ram. The demonstrators have been dispersed, and an IDF unit has been left in the area because of concern that the disturbances might recur. Tempers in the village remain high, although the Civilian Administration tried to calm the situation last night and this morning. As was expected, there were mounting disturbances in Judaea and Samaria today. Security forces imposed a curfew on the Tulkarm refugee camp following a riot.

There were also disturbances, including incidents in which stones were thrown at vehicles, this morning in the refugee camps of Qalandiyah and Al-Am'ari and in Ramallah. A demonstration was dispersed in B'ir Zayt before a riot broke out, and there were full commercial strikes in Ramallah, Al-Birah, and East Jerusalem this morning.

The death of the young woman in the village of Al-Ram yesterday apparently brought general disquiet to Judaea and Samaria. So far, there have been no developments in the interrogation of the company commander and the soldier involved in the incident. A military source reported that the incident would be thoroughly investigated and that the first lesson that has been drawn from it is that the force that entered the village was too small to contend with the seriousness of the disturbances there.

The relative quiet reported in the Gaza Strip continues. A curfew was imposed last night on two areas in the Jabalyah refugee camp until further notice, following riots at the camp. Commercial life is almost normal in most Gaza Strip towns. There was a commercial strike this morning in Khan Yunus.

The trials of those accused of participating in the riots continue in Ramallah, Nabulus, and Gaza. Seven trials have been held in Gaza so far: six defendants pleaded guilty and were sentenced to only 2 months in jail; one defendant pleaded not guilty and his trial was postponed.

Curfew Imposed on Qalqilyah

TA041708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The security forces imposed a curfew on large parts of Qalqilyah this afternoon after a large-scale demonstration of women turned into a riot. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the security forces asked the women to disperse, and then imposed a curfew to force them to enter their houses.

It appears that the death of the young woman in the village of Al-Ram caused the ferment in Qalqilyah.

159 Reservists Refuse To Serve in Territories

TA311244 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Some 159 officers and soldiers serving in reserve units announced today that they will not serve in the administered territories. The leaders of the group said they are prepared to go to jail rather than reverse their decision. Steve Rodan reports.

[Begin recording] [Rodan] The group Yesh Gvul [There Is a Limit] began in 1982 with several reservists who announced their refusal to serve in Lebanon. In 1985, when Israel withdrew its forces, the stage moved elsewhere; this time to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. At a news conference today, leaders of Yesh Gvul announced that 159 reservists up to the rank of captain will not serve in the territories. Some will agree to be deployed in the areas, but not carry out orders to quell unrest. Their aim, their leaders say, is to change Israeli policy in the territories and eventually force an Israeli withdrawal. I asked one of the Yesh Gvul leaders, Me'ir Amur, whether the democratic process of elections would do just as well.

[Amur] We are not just screws in a big machine, we are not. We are citizens and we are declaring here that as citizens, we are not going to obey any orders that come from above. They sit above because we gave them the power to be there, not vice versa. And that's the point of democracy, and we are fighting for the Israeli democracy, not against the Israeli Defense Forces.

[Rodan] Yesh Gvul says its appeal is not directed at soldiers of the standing army. They say so far dozens of reservists have refused to serve in the territories, but at this point there is no one in jail. [end recording]

Shamir Comments on Territories Policy, Budget

TA040657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by David Grossman in the studio and by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Good morning to you, Mr Prime Minister. In the wake of yesterday afternoon's incident in Al-Ram, north of Jerusalem, is there not a feeling that the wave of riots which seemed to have died out is erupting again? Do you not fear this?

[Shamir] I do not think that the wave of riots will resume. Yesterday's incident is indeed regrettable. Everybody knows how much we want to avoid casualties. We have no desire for deaths or injuries, neither among Arabs nor Jews, and the IDF is doing its best and exercising maximum restraint. Still, during such waves of deliberate disturbances such regrettable incidents may occur. I hope that such cases will not recur once calm is restored.

[Grossman] Mr Prime Minister, the wave of riots in the territories has continued for almost a month now. Do you believe it is possible to restore the precise status quo ante there, or will the government have to consolidate a new policy to meet a new situation?

[Shamir] I do not think that a new situation has been created here. Order must be restored first, and we will do so. We see that this process is being implemented. At the same time, of course, those efforts which should be and are being made by the government year-round to reach peaceful solutions will continue.

[Ben-'Ami] Yesterday the defense minister informed the Cabinet of the intention to deport nine Palestinians from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Yesterday you received a verbal message from President Mubarak, who is protesting and claiming that the deportation policy is wrong. Will this policy be exercised, and how do you react to President Mubarak's message?

[Shamir] This is not a new policy. Deportations are the maximum penalty at our disposal today, and we use it as sparingly as possible, only with regard to totally incorrigible cases, people who continue to ferment spirits, incite, and cause riots and bloodshed. Almost or rather all those slated for deportation have already served lengthy prison terms but have continued with their instigatory and inflammatory acts, and deportation is, in fact, the most effective means—the only effective means—we can use.

[Grossman] Israel has expelled residents to Jordan in the past, but they were replaced by other, even more radical, ones. This raises a question about the effectiveness of this method.

[Shamir] I do not think your description is accurate. We did indeed deport people in the past, and then, too, on a very limited scale. This is what we did. These measures, which have been used all along, have helped us maintain the quiet and order which enable the population to continue its normal life and which enable the state to continue to conduct its daily business, as well as its efforts for peace.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, what is your response to the harsh—this is how I would phrase it—message from President Mubarak?

[Shamir] I will naturally respond to President Mubarak, as early as today. I will explain the situation to him. I will explain to him the constraints under which we must operate. I will explain to him the degree of restraint we exercise despite the threats and difficult challenges, as well as our continuous effort to avoid casualties and bloodshed to the best of our ability, to the maximum extent possible.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, you have headed the overseas information campaign at the Foreign Ministry for many years. How, in your opinion, is it possible for our representatives around the world to face up to the information offensive required at this time?

[Shamir] I think this is definitely possible, though it is not a simple task. One must explain the situation, explain our constraints, and explain the problems of a democratic country such as Israel, which must defend itself against incessant provocations, threats, and attempts to attack its soldiers, its security forces, and its civilians. Furthermore, we have to do all of this, to defend ourselves, without causing casualties. This is very difficult, and I think we are doing this in a more convincing manner than any other regime in the Western world.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you, sir, share the assessment of defense elements and the defense minister, as expressed to the Cabinet yesterday, that the IDF's deployment in the territories, as well as the tiredness of people there and the punishment adopted, will finally calm this wave down?

[Shamir] I need not enter a discussion on the analysis of experts. We adopt all measures that will lead to calm and to a return to normal life. This, in fact, is what the Arab population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza yearns for. They want to return to normal life, as they also see that all the riots, agitation, and stone-throwing incidents produce no results and benefit nobody, but rather harm them first and foremost.

[Ben-'Ami] With your permission, Mr Prime Minister, let us move on to another matter, a matter which returns us to normal life: the budget. Finally, after five meetings, the Cabinet approved the budget yesterday. If I may say this, the feeling is that you took a political step during the Likud ministers' meeting last week, when you in fact compelled them to vote for the budget if the Alignment voted as a bloc. Thus you offset the Alignment's stance. Am I correct in this assessment?

[Shamir] Well, it is clear that a government cannot function without a budget. The budget had to be passed in order to prepare it for submittal to the Knesset for ratification and to enable the state to operate. It is clear that in a government such as ours, a national unity government, it would have been both very sad and harmful if the vote on the budget were split according to partisan affiliations. I viewed this as a serious threat and damage, and therefore made an effort so that the entire Likud would be united in the deliberations and votes on the budgets. I think that that is what compelled the Alignment to refrain from those extreme moves which some of its members proposed, so that ultimately speaking, the budget was adopted by a large majority of all Cabinet members, from all camps, and I am satisfied with this.

[Grossman] Sir, regarding the budget itself, the impression is that the budget, as it stands, does not include allocations for economic growth, for investments in the economy. On the other hand, it is not clear where the budget of 65 million new shekels for the health system, for example, will come from. How does the government intend to solve these problems?

[Shamir] This budget is one of continuation, in fact. The goal of the budget is to maintain the stability we have established. To the best of our understanding, this stability must continue because it is a precondition for economic growth and development. I also believe that the continuation of stability—and there are all the chances for this today—will lead both to economic growth, not necessarily from governmental sources, and to an additional drop in inflation. I very much hope that at the end of 1988 we will be able to announce, as we did at the end of 1987, that there are very encouraging signs for positive economic trends.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you saying this despite the fact that the Cabinet ministers who met yesterday were aware that 1988 is an election year?

[Shamir] This was not taken into account from the point of view that this is everybody's decision, that this is in fact the meaning of the vote for the budget: There will be no election economy. One should take into account a very important element in this budget: Half of it is designated for the repayment of debts that we cannot put off, that we must pay. This means that the situation will be easier in the years to come and that it will be possible to handle services for the population more effectively.

Amman TV on Al-Rifa'i BBC, POST Interview

JN032011 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has said that His Majesty King Husayn visited the USSR representing not only Jordan but carrying the results of the Arab summit, which he chaired. His majesty acquainted the Soviet leadership with the unified Arab positioa, added Al-Rifa'i. We found the Soviet positions vis-a-vis the Gulf war, the Arab-Israeli dispute, and the proposed international peace conference practically identical to ours and those of the Arabs.

Interviewed by the BBC and THE WASHINGTON POST, the prime minister added that Jordan maintains excellent relations with the Soviet Union and that its ties with the United States are good, too. We do not view our developing relations with one nation as being at the expense of another.

On the uprising in the occupied land, the prime minister said the upheaval of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was a spontaneious reaction by a people rejecting continued occupation when hopes of a settlement are lost. The uprising was inevitable, as the Palestinian people have reached a point at which they can no longer endure any more suffering from occupation, added Al-Rifa'i. He said the Israeli authorities' practices led the population to resist the occupation.

The prime minister said Israel's harsh iron-fist policy, under which live ammunition was used and children were killed, might have brought the situation under control. These, however, are not true signs calm will persist, Al-Rifa'i added. The prime minister said that as long as the peace process is not sustain·d and there is no political solution on the horizon, the incidents on the West Bank and Gaza will only be the beginning.

The prime minister emphasized that the upheaval confirmed the need to keep the peace process going. We have said time and again that a peaceful settlement can only be attained through a UN-sponsored international conference attended by all the parties to the dispute and the five permanent members of the Security Council to implement Security Council Resolution No 338 and 242.

Replying to a question about Shimon Peres' statements on the existence of a document of understanding regarding the proposed international conference, the prime minister said no such paper exists. He pointed out that what happened was that the United States was interested in the conference; we and Washington discussed the role and terms of reference of the conference and the sides to attend it. We agreed on some points, and disagreed on others.

When the Israeli Government took a hard-line stand on the international conference, our talks with the Americans were discontinued and there have been no developmetns since. Al-Rifa'i said there is an international consensus on the international conference, with Israel the one dissenting voice. The United States may fail to take a firm, public stand on the conference as a result of the Israeli position. Therefore, the prime minister added, there is no movement whatsoever now.

On the Arab summit's positive repercussions for Syrian-Iraqi ties, Al-Rifa'i said improved relations between the sisterly countries was a positive outcome of the conference. Media attacks ceased and there are direct contacts between Syria and Iraq on various fronts. The progress in relations between them may be slow, but it is sure and on the right track to normalized ties.

On Syria's attempt to bring the Gulf war to a halt, the prime minister said this effort falls under the heading of a unified Arab approach reached at the Amman summit. There were contacts between Damascus and Tehran with a view to de-escalating and containing the hostilities, added Al- Rifa'i. The Arabs want the Gulf war halted; this will not be possible until Iran changes its position and abides by UN Security Council Resolution No 598. We will support any new Security Council action, whether in the form of an arms embargo against Iran or any other means that would impress upon the Iranians the urgency of consenting to Resolution No 598.

The prime minister said in conclusion that along with other Arab states, Jordan is a signatory to the Collective Arab Defense Pact and will come to the aid of any Gulf Arab country, if it is requested to do so, and will do all it can.

Al-Huss Praises Husayn, Meets Al-Rifa'i

JN021405 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has said that the Lebanese greatly appreciate His Majesty King Husayn's efforts and his majesty's continued interest in the Lebanese issue. Al-Huss said the Lebanese also appreciate King Husayn's eagerness to provide help in all endeavors to end the Lebanese crisis. Al-Huss added these things are prompted by fraternal Arab sentiments.

In an exclusive interview with PETRA-JNA, Acting Prime Minister Al-Huss went on to say: There is no doubt that fraternal Jordan is one of the Arab countries which is very close to Lebanon and shows a great deal of understanding of the Lebanese issue.

He said: We in Lebanon feel that Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn has shown continued interest in the developments of the situation in Lebanon. We also feel Jordan has always shown a readiness to pr vide the utmost possible support to help Lebanon overcome its crisis.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office this morning acting Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss who is currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting they discussed Arab developments and bilateral relations. They also reviewed the topics on the agenda of the eight-member committee assigned to study the financial situation of the Arab League and its affiliated institutions and organizations which will begin its meetings in Amman tomorrow, Sunday. Dr al-Huss arrived in Amman yesterday evening.

Decree Approves 1987 Budget Law Supplement

JN271204 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
27 Dec 87 p 11

[Excerpt] Amman—A royal decree has been issued approving the 1987 state budget law supplement under which 61 million dinars will be added to the government's expenditures. This new sum, to be added to the 49-million dinar deficit contained in the original budget law and financed from domestic and foreign loans, is broken down as follows: 26 million dinars as current expenditures, 17 million as credit expenditures, 6 million as ordinary expenditures, and 12 million as capital expenditures. [passage omitted]

Senate Endorses Budget, Makes Recommendations

JN300856 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpts] During its session this morning under Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi and in the presence of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the ministers, the Senate unanimously endorsed the general state budget for the Fiscal Year 1988.

At the beginning of the session, Senate member Dr Khalil al-Salim, Financial Committee rapporteur in the Senate, read the Committee's decision which praised His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to convene an Arab summit conference in Amman, unify the nation's ranks, convey the meanings and implications of the summit resolutions to the world's leaders and peoples, and turn the reconciliation and accord into firm realities in the Arab territories to stand as an impregnable wall in the face of dangers and challenges. [passage omitted]

The Financial Committee hailed the uprising of the kinfolk in the occupied territories—an uprising which is viewed as a natural reaction to the continuation of Israeli occupation, crimes, torture, and repression against the Palestinian people. It also hailed fraternal Iraq and its brave Army for its heroic steadfastness in repulsing the waves of aggression and defending the Arab nation's land. [passage omitted]

The Committee's decision recommends submitting a new draft general budget law, reconsidering current expenditures, rationalizing capital expenditures on commodities and equipment, and closely linking revenues and expenditures. The Committee's decision extends thanks and appreciation to the fraternal Arab countries, foremost of which is Saudi Arabia, for meeting their financial commitments to Jordan. It also appeals to other Arab countries to meet their commitments to enable Jordan to continue its military and economic steadfastness.

The Senate then discussed the draft general state budget for 1988. Nine Senate members spoke praising His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to achieve Arab solidarity, build a unified Arab stand, and support the kinfolk in the occupied homeland to save them and liberate the land. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i commented on the Financial Committee's decision and the Senate members' speeches and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Senate president and the Financial Committee members with regard to the Committee's remarks, ideas, and proposals. He said: The path of development is long and difficult. The achievements have been on the level of honest effort and continuous work. [passage omitted]

The prime minister added: Jordan has a mission with pan-Arab roots and trends. It also believes in cooperation with fraternal Arab countries and opens its door to the outside world. His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to unify Arab ranks in the face of the current dangers threatening the Arab nation were crowned with success during the summit of reconciliation and accord, when the Arab leaders responded to their brother His Majesty King Husayn and announced a new Arab march.

The prime minister also hailed the steadfast kinfolk in the occupied homeland in the face of the occupation authorities and their repressive measures. He said our people there are challenging the occupation authorities with their strong uprising.

He added: Since the occupation of Arab land, His Majesty King Husayn has warned of the Israeli intransigence. The explosive situation today requires more than ever the convening of an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as the other concerned parties to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and secure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

He also hailed the steadfastness of fraternal Iraq in the face of the Iranian aggression against Iraqi land and the eastern flank of the Arab nation. He said: Since the start of the war, Jordan has supported fraternal Iraq and believes Security Council Resolution No 598 should be implemented as a whole to end the Iranian aggression which threatens regional and world peace.

He added that the government agrees with the Financial Committee's analyses of the difficult economic, regional, and international circumstances and is concerned about our blessed march. He said the government tries to use the revenues of our national economy to strengthen these achievements.

Reaction to Hijacking of Helicopter Continues

Pilot Reveals 'Conspiracies'

NC311259 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1237 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] While desecrating the homeland, the regime's Army has massacred the people and colluded with and served the enemy, an enemy that still directs its weapons at our citizens and their nationalist lands. That Army was dismayed by the fact that a nationalist officer revealed its conspiracies at a news conference today.

The officer spoke of his trip, made aboard a military helicopter, from Adma Air Base to Al-Shuf on the birthday of martyred Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Adma was the same facility from which the booby-trapped helicopter took off with the bomb that killed the martyred prime minister.

In addition to giving free rein to its statements and mouthpieces, and speaking of desertion and treason, actions at which this Army has become adept, the Lebanese Army sent its planes today to fly over B'aqlin and Al-Shuf, where they came under fire from the ground.

Criticizes Army Commanders

NC311506 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] First Lieutenant Majid Karami has revealed why he flew a military helicopter from Adma Air Base to Al-Shuf. He explained the practices of the Lebanese Army Command and its factional and racist intelligence headquarters, which have put the Army and its power at the disposal of Amin al-Jumayyil and his followers.

The Army and intelligence commands have also conspired against nationalists, and were involved in the criminal assassinations of martyr Rashid Karami, the Army chief of staff, Major General Nadim al-Hakim, and a number of other officers and men. Lt Karami cited directives from the Army Command, which view Lebanon's nationalists and the Arab Deterrent Force as its enemies. He also spoke of the Army's humiliation at the hands of the Phalangist forces.

Army Demands Helicopter's Return

NC312104 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Military sources have been cited as saying that the Lebanese Army Command has issued a warning to Minister Walid Junblatt. It notes that he must return, within 48 hours, the military helicopter hijacked by defecting Army officer Majid Karami.

PSP Rejects 'Ultimatum'

NC011052 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] A PSP source announced today that the party has received an ultimatum from the Army to return the hijacked helicopter within 48 hours. However, the PSP has rejected the ultimatum. According to the source, the ultimatum was delivered to the PSP representative on the Security Committee. He noted that the demand did not specify the measures the Army would take if the helicopter were not returned. The PSP, he added, has information that the Army has taken Measure 2. This is a source of concern to Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and [Defense Minister and] former Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran, for it indicates that the Army might take military action against the Al-Shuf area if the PSP refuses to return the hijacked helicopter.

REUTER cited PSP sources as saying that Measure 2 means the Army will take specific military action, but gave no further details. According to PSP official Marwan Hamadah, the PSP told the Army that the party will reject any ultimatum and that Junblatt, the PSP, and their allies are determined to do so. When asked if the party intends to return the helicopter to the Army, Hamadah replied: Under the current circumstances, any discussion of the issue is out of the question.

Junblatt Ready for 'War'

NC011755 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] In a statement to AFP in Amman, Minister Walid Junblatt has announced his readiness to go to war with the Army. He added that he will never give the helicopter back. Junblatt said the ultimatum from the Army yesterday was tantamount to a declaration of war. He continued: Before presenting ultimatums, it would have been better had the Army identified those in its own ranks who killed former Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Junblatt explained: They can do what they want. We are ready for war.

A PSP source told the Voice of Lebanon this evening: If they want war, then let it be so. He reaffirmed the PSP's refusal to return the helicopter, pointing out that the PSP, the Lebanese Communist Party, and the Jurayj wing of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party are on alert. He added that artillery emplacements and SAM missile batteries have been set up along the coast and in the mountain area.

Army Declares 'War' Zone

NC011453 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The Army Command has announced that, effective 0800 tomorrow, 2 January 1988, Lebanese territorial waters up to a limit of 12 km from the coast between

Khaldah and Al-Awwali will be considered a war operations zone. The Army statement adds that all ships, vessels, boats, and fishing and tourist craft are hereby prohibited from approaching or sailing in this area. The declaration warns that the appropriate military measures will be taken against any transgressors.

It should be noted that the Army Command's ultimatum to the PSP to return the helicopter hijacked by the defector Lieutenant Majid Karami expires this evening.

Declaration 'Serious'

NC012030 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Excerpts] According to a military source, the operational measure taken by the Army Command in defining the area between Khaldah and Al-Awwali as a war operations zone is serious. The source noted that every contingency has been taken into account. He added that the matter is no longer one of merely hijacking a helicopter, but is also connected to the decision that led to its seizure. The military source hinted that the PSP is in a state of semi-isolation from its local allies and that the step taken by the PSP does not have their blessing. The source announced that any further operational measures will take place in response to future military developments. [passage omitted]

The PSP has placed itself on a state of alert, and has deployed air defense units in Khaldah, 'Aramun, Al-Sa'diyat, Al-Jiyah, and Al-Na'imah.

The commands of the Fatah Uprising and the PFLP-GC have declared a state of general alert in the positions they hold jointly with the PSP in 'Aytat, 'Ayn 'Unub, Al-Sa'diyat, and Al-Damur.

A PSP source explained that these measures were adopted as a safeguard against possible landing operations by the Lebanese Army.

Mediterranean Nations Briefed

NC021134 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] The Army Command has informed Mediterranean countries through diplomatic channels that the area between Khaldah and Al-Awwali is a war zone. Those nations have been asked to stop sending their vessels to harbors in that region.

A merchant ship tried to enter the port of Al-Jiyah this morning, but was turned back. The vessel was later reported to be heading south, escorted by two cruisers, the identity of which was unknown. Another vessel is also said to have been prevented from entering the prohibited area.

The Lebanese Air Force continues to conduct missions over Lebanon's territorial waters.

PSP Responds to Announcement

NC012049 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The PSP General Secretariat has made the following statement in response to the declaration from the Al-Yarzi [Lebanese Army] Command defining its war operations zone in the area between Khaldah and Al-Awwali:

1. The factional army command's blockade of the area between Khaldah and Al-Awwali, and its definition of the region as a war operations zone, prompts us to consider the area from Ra's Bayrut to Al-Madfun a military zone.

2. The interception of any vessel, or the commission of any act of aggression against the area designated in the factional army command's declaration, will compel us to take appropriate and legitimate measures to defend [word indistinct]. Accordingly, and under the current circumstances, the owners of vessels docking at the port of Beirut or at ports from Ra's Bayrut to Al-Madfun are asked to move their ships and assume their responsibility. In addition, owners of insurance companies and marine shipping firms are asked to take such steps as they deem appropriate to safeguard their rights.

3. The PSP repeats its warning to the Army Command not to take any reckless action, and holds it responsible in advance for the potential repercussions of such acts.

Junblatt Terms Blockade 'Piracy'

NC030737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt has described the Lebanese Army's sea blockade from Khaldah to Al-Awwali as an act of piracy. In a statement to REUTER in Amman, Junblatt said a government for Arab Lebanon must be set up in those areas not controlled by the Lebanese Forces. He added: Lebanon's partition is a de facto one. Therefore, let us have an Arab Lebanon from which we can liberate the other Lebanon.

Junblatt noted: We can form an alternative government covering a number of areas, including Tyre in the south, Tripoli in the north, the Al-Shuf Mountains southeast of Beirut, and the Al-Biqa' plain in the east. We must do this in coordination with the Amal Movement, the Communists, and everyone else. However, he added, the leader of the Amal Movement, Minister Nabih Birri, is not convinced that now is the appropriate time to take this step.

Minister Junblatt went on: We need quick action to find a peaceful solution to the Lebanese civil war, as the Army and the Lebanese Forces are mobilizing their military units. He explained: The presidential elections, which are scheduled to take place this year at the end of

President al-Jumayyil's 6-year term, will be an opportunity for a new Muslim-Christian dialogue. Minister Junblatt said he accepts the Constitutional provision concerning the presidency, namely, that the new president be a Christian Maronite. However, he noted, Lebanon cannot continue to be governed by this old political formula, which belongs to the Dark Ages. He added: We want to introduce peaceful change through a compromise reached as a result of negotiations.

'Nationalist' Parties Back PSP

NC021827 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] The nationalist parties and forces meeting in the office of PSP leader Walid Junblatt in Beirut today said they will react firmly to any act of aggression committed by the regime's army against any nationalist area.

'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization Command, read the following statement issued by the participants:

The conferees discussed the grave situation resulting from the military and political escalation by the Al-Yarzi Army Command and the ruler of B'abda. This escalation was reflected in the declaration of war on the nationalist areas and the Lebanese people, which was based on political considerations designed to serve certain private interests and Israel's partitionist plans. The conferees have asserted the following points:

1. Where was the Al-Yarzi army when the Israeli enemy, the Lebanese Phalangists, and their Zionist forces expropriated the homeland's dignity, sovereignty, and peace? Where was the Al-Yarzi army's pride when the forces of Samir Ja'ja' assassinated Colonel Khalil Kan'an? What has happened to the investigation into the murder of martyr Prime Minister Rashid Karami, which was planned and perpetrated by those now leveling their malicious threats?

2. The act of a patriotic officer, pilot Majid Karami, represents the best of a just army, which would have defended the homeland's interests had it had any desire to do so.

3. The two warnings from the Al-Yarzi Army Command constitute an explicit declaration of war and a blatant act of aggression against a basic nationalist area, the liberation of which took much blood and sacrifice. We consider any attack on this area to be an attack on all nationalist areas, without exception. Any such action will meet with a firm response from our people, who want to fight their real battle against the Israeli enemy so as to free the soil of the south. These people also want to do away with the partitionist and fascist Phalangist scheme in order to maintain Lebanon's unity and Arab character.

'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas announced that the conferees were contacted by 'Umar Karami, who declared his solidarity with the nationalist forces and condemned the practices and follies of the Army and the regime.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Amal Movement, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization, the Communist Party, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party, the Nasirite Unionists, the Nasirite Popular Organization, and the PSP. Majors Walid Hasanatu and Ayman Yusuf were present on behalf of the Syrian forces.

PSP Fires on Army Vessels

NC021633 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] A PSP security source has announced that two boats belonging to the regime's Army were sailing some 6 km off Al-Jiyyah this morning when they were fired on and forced to retreat.

According to a source in Al-Jiyyah, the situation in the port is normal, and vessels are unloading their cargo as usual. The source added that there was no inbound or outbound traffic at the harbor today.

The source confirmed that two boats belonging to the regime's Army came under fire, as they were 6 km from the coast.

Al-Huss Deplores Army Reaction

NC021000 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, who is currently visiting Amman, has expressed his astonishment at the uproar caused by the Army Command over the incident involving a military helicopter. This, Al-Huss said, contrasts with the fact that this command has done nothing about the criminal assassination of the late Lebanese prime minister, Rashid Karami. That outrage occurred while he was in the Army's care and in one of its helicopters. This was an abominable crime aimed at the heart of our state's security. Despite this, Al-Huss added, the Army Command has yet to bring anyone to trial, even on charges of negligence or dereliction of duty.

In an interview with AFP, the acting prime minister explained: We disapprove of the hijacking of a military aircraft, but we also totally disapprove of and indeed deplore any escalation by the Lebanese Army in response. He said: We realize that escalation can only lead to further escalation. The people do not want a return to an atmosphere of tension and disintegration.

Acting Prime Minister al-Huss expressed the view that the seizure of the military helicopter was an act that could have only harmful effects, for it came at a time when some encouraging signs had appeared on Lebanon's political horizon.

Military Outlines Position

NC030854 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Responding to the various positions taken toward the incident involving the military helicopter, a military source made the following statement last night:

1. The incident, in itself, was not the first of its kind in military history. Hundreds of pilots have defected with their aircraft, and hundreds of planes have been stolen from their airfields. However, the episode involving the Lebanese military helicopter cannot be compared with them, as it goes much further. Indeed, it can be considered a serious precedent, not only against the unity of the Army, but against the unity of the homeland as a whole. Unless this matter is dealt with quickly, wisely, and firmly, it will sorely tempt everyone seeking to divide and share the state's various institutions before dividing the homeland itself.

2. Any linkage or comparison between this incident and the assassinations of Prime Minister Karami and Colonel Kan'an is either a gross mistake or a reflection of evil intent. The two crimes are judicial questions that have been entrusted to the judiciary. The Army has done all it can. Those determined to pursue the truth and reveal the criminals should address themselves to the appropriate judicial authorities.

3. Those leaders working for the unity of the homeland and its Army were given sufficient time by the Army Command, before it took action, to declare clear, responsible, and impartial stands going beyond the categorical rejection and condemnation of such a divisive and grave precedent. However, to our great regret, those positions were quite misleading, timid, and appeasing on a serious and decisive issue.

4. Those officials who worked and held contacts in a bid to secure the return of the helicopter and its pilots have come away empty-handed. The Security Committee has also failed. The Army Command continues to hope that men of goodwill, eager to preserve the foundations of our homeland's unity, will open their hands and return that which belongs to the Army. The Army, for its part, will be deeply grateful.

5. The Army Command refuses to ignore this precedent and any possible similar acts, just as it refuses to share or divide the Army. Those who think this case should be overlooked should state whether they accept or reject the Army's division. That would relieve the people of this responsibility before the wolves share the scattered flock.

'Mediators' Seek Solution

NC040639 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The question of the military helicopter remains the focus of attention. Political circles note that mediators and those seeking a peaceful settlement of the matter are searching for practical solutions to the problem. These solutions include the possibility of transferring the helicopter to the military air base at Beirut Airport or the Riyaq Air Base. The Army Command has yet to respond to these ideas. According to sources close to the Army, the military is still studying the matter, while insisting that it must recover the helicopter at all costs.

In the past 48 hours, mediators have been in touch with the Army Command and with nationalist and Islamic leaders. Army Commander General Michel 'Awn told the mediators that he supports any positive initiative. For their part, the mediators asked him to moderate the war of words.

Meanwhile, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has asked Gen 'Awn to retract the decision designating Lebanese territorial waters between Khaldah and Al-Awwali as a military operations zone. He said this would facilitate a political solution to the problem involving the helicopter, especially now that Israel has intervened through its raids on Iqlim al-Kharrub.

The chamber speaker made this point in a telephone conversation with Gen 'Awn at noon yesterday. He told the Army commander that this problem should remain an internal Lebanese affair. He added: We must not let Israel aggravate the situation through various actions and acts of aggression, the signs of which have already begun to appear.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, is trying to lay the foundation for a solution through consultations, some of which are taking place behind the scenes and others openly. He, for example, was in touch with former Minister Marwan Hamadah last Saturday.

For his part, Muhsin Dallul, deputy leader of the PSP, left for Damascus on Saturday. He will meet with officials in the Syrian capital to brief them on the tense atmosphere created by the helicopter incident.

It is worth noting that Minister Walid Junblatt arrived in Damascus yesterday afternoon. He is expected to see Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and other senior Syrian officials before returning to Al-Mukhtarah.

Israeli Forces Launch Air, Infantry Attacks

Qabrikha Hit

NC011546 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1535 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] We have just been informed that Israeli helicopters are attacking Qabrikha with Milan missiles. Israeli infantry, backed by aircraft and armored vehicles, are trying to advance toward Qabrikha. Ferocious fighting is now raging between Amal gunmen and residents of the town on one hand, and the Israeli forces and agent

Lahd's militiamen on the other. We have just learned that the Israeli forces managed to infiltrate into areas adjacent to the town at 1530 today.

'Gunman' Killed

NC011735 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1721 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] According to sources in the Islamic resistance, Israeli forces backed by helicopters shelled military positions in Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, (Wadi al-Shuqi), and Tulin this afternoon. A gunman was killed, and a shepherd, Ni'mah Milhim, was kidnapped.

Meanwhile, Israeli military aircraft flew over Sidon and the surrounding areas from 1500 to 1600 today, coming under fire from the ground.

4 Israelis Killed

NC021239 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jan 87

[Text] Some four Israeli soldiers were killed and one resistance fighter was martyred after an approximately 2-hour battle between resistance fighters and an Israeli enemy force attempting to advance toward Qabrikha yesterday afternoon.

Our correspondent in the south reports that the Israelis attempted to approach a hill from which they had recently withdrawn. He added that a violent battle took place, and that the enemy retreated after suffering heavy losses.

Hizballah Positions Raided

NC021354 Paris AFP in English 1343 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Hasbayya, Lebanon, Jan 2 (AFP)—Two Israeli helicopters Saturday attacked positions manned by the Shi'ite fundamentalist Hizballah militia in southern Lebanon, police said here.

The Cobra helicopters fired several missiles and rounds of heavy machine-gun in a two-hour raid on Hizballah positions in Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah, some 90 kilometres (55 miles) south of Beirut, the police said.

Israeli heavy artillery provided cover fire for the operation from positions in nearby Marj 'Uyun, within Israel's "security zone" in southern Lebanon, police added.

A Hizballah spokesman, contacted by telephone from this southern town, confirmed the Israeli operations but could not give details of casualties among Hizballah fighters or the local population in the two areas.

Hizballah fighters form the core of the Islamic resistance, which has claimed responsibility for several anti-Israeli attacks in south Lebanon.

PFLP-GC Building Destroyed

NC022202 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] At around 2210 today, two Israeli Phantom aircraft fired a rocket at a security building belonging to the PFLP-GC in Hayy al-Hisbah on the outskirts of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in Sidon. The structure was completely destroyed, and a number of people were either killed or wounded.

At the same time, Israeli helicopters dropped flares over Iqlim al-Kharrub. At about 2310, Israeli warplanes struck PFLP-GC positions near the port of Al-Jiyah, Al-Dubbiyah, and Barja, while Israeli gunboats shelled a number of Palestinian posts in Iqlim al-Kharrub. Israeli warplanes are still flying over the area, and Israeli gunboats have continued their bombardment.

Further Casualties Noted

NC030945 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] According to Palestinian sources, last night's raids on Palestinian and PSP positions led to the death of one Fatah fighter. In addition, the attacks near Barja left one member of the PFLP dead and six others wounded.

PSP sources note that three of their fighters were killed, and that a number of Barja residents were injured. The same sources said that the bodies of no fewer than 14 civilians have been pulled from the rubble of buildings in the Barja plain. The dead include Khalil Mushayrifi, his wife, and five children; 'Isa 'Abd al-Razzaq, his wife, and three children; 'Ali Amin Z'irt; and a woman from the Abu 'Aram family.

Areas Near Sidon Damaged

NC030600 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes intensified their activities last night. At approximately 2230, they launched a sudden raid on an area east of Sayniq, the southern access to the city of Sidon in the groves area, causing property damage. No casualties have been reported.

Israeli warplanes have also struck residential districts in Al-Jiyah and certain sectors of Al-Damur. They dropped flares, illuminating the area.

We note here that Israeli warplanes stepped up their flights over the area which the Lebanese Army has declared a military zone. That followed the helicopter incident, in which a pilot, Majid Karami, defected to Al-Shuf.

We have learned that three PSP fighters were killed in Al-Jiyah.

Amal Positions Attacked

NC031425 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Excerpt] An official military source in the Amal Movement has made the following statement: Israeli helicopters have been raiding Amal Movement positions in the areas of Maghdushah, Hill 36, and Al-Ghaziyah since yesterday evening. The helicopters launched a violent rocket and machinegun attack on these posts last night, injuring a number of Amal Movement members, including Muhammad Zurayq, Adham 'Awarikah, and Yusuf Tawbah. Amal Movement forces in the south have been placed on alert in preparation for any eventuality.

Israeli aircraft are still flying over the areas. The Amal Movement's ground defense forces are confronting the aircraft and preventing them from reaching their objectives. An Israeli rocket exploded this morning, seriously wounding Hasan 'Atwah, who has been taken to the American University Hospital in Beirut.

Meanwhile, Yuhmur has been surrounded for 4 days. This has led to food shortages and other problems for its people. The situation there is getting worse, as there are nursing babies whose mothers are outside the town and cannot return due to the siege. [passage omitted]

Al-Rashidiyah Camp Shelled

NC040614 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Israeli gunboats shelled the Al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre for an hour last night. AFP, which carried the report, did not say if there had been any casualties in the bombardment.

8 Soldiers Killed in 'Resistance' Attack

NC010647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] In the resisting south, the National Resistance Front issued a statement this morning announcing that its fighters attacked enemy vehicles and positions in Al-Duhayrah at dawn today. Eight enemy soldiers were killed, and an emplacement used for a 12.7-mm automatic weapon was destroyed. One resistance fighter was martyred in the ensuing 40-minute clash. Soon afterward, enemy helicopters conducted an extensive search. Enemy artillery also shelled the towns of Al-Duhayrah and Yarin, as well as the surrounding areas.

In addition, the resistance declared that its units attacked the settlement of Nahariyya with several rockets at dawn today, inflicting casualties and property damage.

Meanwhile, two resistance fighters were martyred in clashes near the town of Bint Jubayl on Wednesday night. A Zionist spokesman has admitted that several rockets fell in the occupied border strip yesterday. Resistance fighters used Katyushas to attack the Zionist intelligence command headquarters in Hasbayya and agent Lahd's militia command headquarters in Tallat Zaghla at the northern entrance to Hasbayya at dawn yesterday. A number of the rockets fell just outside the two headquarters, while others fell in the vicinity of Hasbayya.

France's Bitterlin Arrives To Discuss Hostages

NC021700 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Lucien Bitterlin, head of the Arab-French Solidarity Association, arrived in Beirut this afternoon. He intends to hold contacts designed to win the release of two French girls which the Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], has been holding since November.

Bitterlin said he expected his mission to be relatively long, noting that he would be contacted in Beirut in order to go to another Arab state, which he did not name.

Holds Talks, Leaves for Libya

LD031328 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Lucien Bitterlin, president of the French-Arab Solidarity Association, arrived in Beirut yesterday. Bitterlin, who is trying to win the release of two little French girls kidnapped aboard a boat off Gaza, left the Lebanese capital this morning for Tripoli, Libya. He went to a Palestinian camp in southern Beirut yesterday evening to meet with representatives of the Abu Nidal group, which has claimed responsibility for the abduction of the two girls and five other passengers on the vessel. Here is what Lucien Bitterlin said to Alain Menargues just before leaving Beirut:

[Begin recording] [Bitterlin] As a result of the talks at the meetings I was able to have, the two little girls will be freed before the end of January.

[Menargues] Why the delay? Why will it take more than 20 days to release the two little girls?

[Bitterlin] We have to find a mediator to speak to the Fatah Revolutionary Council, in other words, either the International Red Cross or another Arab country. The idea of French officials talking to the kidnappers is out of the question.

[Menargues] But, if I may say so, by working officially just for the two little girls, have you not ruled out the possibility of a process to free their mother?

[Bitterlin] I am also talking about the others, not just the mother. [Words indistinct] and that the conditions for the release of the other passengers would also be known. But, for the time being, the reply I managed to

get was that the two children would be freed unconditionally. They are not demanding anything in return—just that the children be guaranteed security. As such, there is a technical problem: A mediator must be found to plan their departure from Lebanon. [end recording]

Thus, Lucien Bitterlin's primary goal at this point is to organize the departure of the two French girls from Lebanon in complete safety. That is not easy. Alain Menargues is on the line from Beirut:

[Menargues] [passage omitted] The fact that these two children are being held hostage has hurt the reputation of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. They want to free them, but with some publicity. Actually, this is what Lucien Bitterlin must negotiate. There has even been talk of a ceremony during which Marie-Laure and Virginie will be handed over to their father in an Arab capital, possibly Algiers. For the moment, the two girls are with the other passengers of the "Silco" somewhere in Lebanon, waiting for Lucien Bitterlin to find someone to answer the Abu Nidal group and [words indistinct] the word freedom.

Al-Shar' Gives Message to Saudi King, Returns

JN010617 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Riyadh—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia received Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister, and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday afternoon. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister; Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Riyadh amir; and Muhammad al-Tal, Syrian ambassador in Riyadh, attended the meeting.

Faruq al-Shar' delivered a message to King Fahd from President Hafiz al-Asad on the situation in the region and issues of mutual interest. The Saudi monarch asked Al-Shar' to convey a reply message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shar' and Qaddur returned to Damascus from Riyadh yesterday evening at the end of a visit which lasted just a few hours. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the Syrian ambassador in Riyadh saw them off.

Radio Notes Role in Iran-GCC States Mediation

JN031950 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1925 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has asserted that his country is ready to meet with the GCC states if there is an advance agreement on the agenda of such a meeting. He said his country considers such a meeting a positive step to settle the situation in the Gulf. He affirmed that any contact between Iran and the GCC states will be in conformity with Iran's policy of goodneighborliness in the Arabian Gulf.

News agencies have noted Syria's efforts to bring viewpoints closer during the GCC summit. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' conveyed messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, which created a postive atmosphere. Therefore, the GCC suumit entrusted the UAE with continuing contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran in an attempt to reach a settlement of the dispute in the Gulf region.

USSR's Brutents on Gulf War, Amman Summit

JN031431 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus, 3 Jan (SANA)—Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, has stressed the need to move the U.S. and NATO fleets out of the Gulf and form a UN force there to secure the freedom of international navigation.

In a statement to AL-BA'TH published here today, Brutents voiced his country's support for UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's mission, which is based on engaging the Iraqi and Iranian sides in joint political efforts to stop the war. In this regard, he pointed to the need for continued efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, since its continuation inflicts human and economic losses on both parties.

Replying to a question on the Amman summit's positive results, Brutents said the most realistic and important factor in this summit was the joint Arab move in the sound direction of defending national and pan-Arab interests. He voiced his country's satisfaction with the Amman summit's support for an international conference on the Middle East and its call for a halt to the Gulf war.

Departs 1 Jan

JN011426 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Comrade Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department and candidate member of the Central Committee, left Damascus this morning following a visit of several days to the country.

He was seen off by Comrade 'Ali Nassar, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Committee and secretary of the Party's Damascus countryside branch; a number of comrades in the National Command's Foreign Relations Office; the Soviet ambassdor in Damascus; and a number of Soviet Embassy staff.

Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Arrives 3 Jan

JN031914 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] At the invitation of General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minsiter, His Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general in fraternal Saudi Arabia, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the country lasting several days.

Receving him at Damascus International Airport were Gen Talas; 'Awwad Bagh, deputy defense minister; Gen 'Ali Aslan and Gen Hasan Turkmani, Army and Armed Forces deputy chiefs of staff; a number of senior Army and Armed Forces General Command officers; the Saudi ambassador in Damascus; and the Saudi Embassy staff.

Received by General Talas

JN041255 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received in his office this morning His Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi Arabian deputy defense and aviation minister and inspector general, and the official delegation accompanying his highness.

The meeting was attended by Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the army and the Armed Forces; Gen 'Ali Aslan and General Hasan Trukmani, Army and Armed Forces deputy chiefs of staff; and the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with existing relations between the Defense Ministries in the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them.

Minister Receives Soviet, Libyan Officials

JN032037 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Damascus, 3 Jan (SANA)—Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, received Aleks Skripkin, plenipotentiary minister for economic affairs at the USSR Embassy in Damascus [name and title as received] today.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed economic cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of gas, oil, and phosphate, and some technical matters related to benefiting from the services of Soviet experts in various fields of development.

Later, Dr Baqjaji received 'Abd al-Qadir al-Warfali, secretary of the Libyan Relations Bureau in Damascus. Talks dealt with bilateral cooperation and planning affairs.

Afghanistan

Government Says Convoys, Supplies Reach Khowst

LD311836 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Excerpt] A second convoy carrying foodstuffs and consumer goods arrived today in Khowst district.

According to a report by a BIA correspondent from Gardeyz city, the convoy carried 1,403 tons of foodstuffs and consumer goods on 184 transport vehicles. The report adds that the first convoy of foodstuffs and consumer goods, which arrived in Khowst yesterday evening, carried 1,200 tons of foodstuffs which were loaded on 155 transport vehicles. In addition, the distribution of the goods began amid the fervor and happiness of thousands of the district's inhabitants. More than 4,000 people have so far benefitted from the shipment of these goods.

Every day, 150 to 190 transport vehicles loaded with foodstuffs and consumer goods are to be sent to Khowst district. In the next 5 days, 10,000 tons of foodstuffs and consumer goods will be sent to Khowst district. [passage omitted]

Commodity Shortage Eliminated

LD011547 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Our national government and the fraternal country, the Soviet Union, are continuing to dispatch goods and foodstuffs to aid Khowst. After the opening of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway, the third convoy, consisting of 229 vehicles and (?1,300) tons of foodstuffs and consumer goods, arrived today in the capital of Khowst district.

According to a report by a BAKHTAR correspondent in Gardeyz, 4,021 tons of foodstuffs and consumer goods have been sent to Khowst district in the past 3 days on 568 vehicles and have been distributed among the people.

The report adds that hundreds of people in Gardeyz, together with party and government employees and personnel of the Armed Forces, despite the rain, enthusiastically took part in the [word indistinct] of commodities and consumer goods needed by the citizens of Khowst which were stocked in Gardeyz city. They loaded 1,200 tons of foodstuffs and consumer goods on 150 vehicles to be sent to Khowst district.

The difficulties of the people in Khowst district, as a result of a shortage of basic commodities, have been removed by the sending of goods and there is no longer any worry in the district in this respect.

(Abdul Qasir), a taxi driver of Gardeyz city, who went to Khowst district for the first time since the opening of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway, said in Gardeyz city in an interview with the BAKHTAR correspondent:

I witnessed the normal movement of traffic along the Gardeyz-Khowst highway. The Armed Forces of our country have not only restored the security of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway, but have also taken part in repairing and asphalting the road which was destroyed and mined by the extremists in the past 9 years. Fifty-five km of the road has been repaired by the personnel of engineering units.

5,300 Tons of Goods Delivered

LD021350 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Gardeyz, 2 Jan, (BAKHTAR)—A fourth convoy of 228 transportation vehicles, carrying 1,282 tons of foodstuffs and commodities, left for Khowst district today.

A reliable source in Gardyez city told BAKHTAR that since the opening of the Gardyez-Khowst highway, over 5,300 tons of foodstuff and goods needed by the people of Khowst district have been sent to the district by 726 vehicles. The sending of goods continues every day by private and government transport.

In addition to the government sending goods, national traders, using the facilities provided for them by the government, also take an active part in sending and supplying foodstuff and goods to Khowst district.

210-Vehicle Convoy Arrives

LD031951 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] A convoy of 210 vehicles carrying 1,331 tons of food and consumer goods arrived in Khowst this afternoon.

BIA reports that thousands of the inhabitants of Khowst, where they were faced with the scarcity of foodstuff and other goods of basic needs because of the Gardeyz-Khowst road being closed by extremist elements, jubilantly welcomed the arrival of the fifth convoy to that district, and expressed their gratitude for clearing the Gardeyz-Khowst highway and for the transportation of a sufficient amount of goods.

The people of Khowst demonstrated their emotions by hugging the heroic and salvationist officers and soldiers who have helped them during most difficult conditions.

The report says that since the highway has been opened, 5 convoys of 1,006 vehicles carrying 6,625 tons of food and consumer goods have arrived in Khowst.

The BIA reporter adds that with the arrival of the fifth convoy of goods to Khowst, the problem of the scarcity of foodstuffs and other goods of basic need has been totally removed and prices have returned to normal in the towns of the district. The consignment of goods to the peace-loving people of Khowst continues and the people of the district work in an atmosphere of peace and security. [passage indistinct]

Life Returns to 'Normalcy'

LD030638 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 3 Jan 88

["Life in Khowst Has Returned to Normalcy"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, January 2, BAKHTAR—Since a period of time, the extremists by blocking the Gardeyz-Khowst highway created much difficulties for the forty thousand of our compatiots in view of the lack of foodstuffs and consumer goods in Khowst, says Sakhi Rahman [name as received] commandant of one of the armed detachments in Khowst who since 8 years is performing his duties in the Armed Forces of the country in Khowst, to a BAKHTAR reporter in Gardeyz city.

He who as a result of his bravery has been decorated with a medal and honoured with an extraordinary promotion, further said that the extremists who did not pay any heed to the request of the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) for the ensurance of peace, instead continued to their bestial activities under the conditions of national reconciliation policy poclaimed by the party and state of the Republic of Afghanistan for the cessation of wa. and bloodshed in the country.

At a request made by the local peace jirga on the Armed Forces rushed to the Zadran and Sataw Kandaw areas of the province. The armed units in their operations against the extremists, inflicted telling blows on them and demolished their hideouts totally, he said.

The Khowst grand district has been totally cleared from the extremists peace and tranquillity have been insured there and the residents while continuing their normal life, have started work on the reconstruction of schools, hospitals and their homes, he noted.

Tajuddin, a farmer in the Khowst grand district in relation to the arrival of foodstuffs caravans to the Khowst, in an interview with our military correspondent in Khowst, said that the residents of Khowst are grateful for the timely assistance of the state. The prices of the foodstuffs have now remarkably come down and all things of daily need are found in abundance in Khowst grand district.

It was as a result of the reopening of the Gardeyz-Khowst highway, by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan that state aids have reached us, he further said.

'Fierce Clashes' Reported in Khowst, Other Areas

BK010835 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce clashes between pro-Soviet Kabul forces and mujahidin in Khowst Lowyah and (Leswali). The mujahidin claim to have captured 5 military posts, killed 18 Soviet-Kabul troops, and captured 10 others.

Rebels Admit Convoy Successful

BK011430 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Jan 1 (AFP)—A convoy of vehicles from the Afghan-Soviet force struggling to break the mujahidin seige of Khowst has succeeded in reaching the garrison town near the Pakistan border, resistance sources said Friday.

But they added that the city of 40,000 in Paktia Province—surrounded by mujahidin fighters for eight yeays—remained under seige.

Some sources said a convoy of some 60 trucks had broken off from the main Afghan-Soviet fighting force in the Maranjan pass and followed a southern track to reach Khowst.

Troops had to build bridges along the way, the sources said.

The sources said that the main road between the provincial capital, Gardeyz, and Khowst was still closed and that heavy fighting was continuing as of late Thursday.

Rebel sources said the main column was "under heavy pressure" in the Maranjan area, unable to advance.

However, other rebel sources said that the convoy reaching Khowst had left the city shortly after the Afghan-Soviet offensive began in mid-December in a bid to join up with the advancing forces.

It became trapped at Nader Shah Kowt, just outside Khowst, the sources said, adding that the Afghan authorities may have decided to publicise its retreat to the city as a victory for propaganda purposes. [passage omitted]

Haqqani Wounded Near Khowst

BK021630 Hong Kong AFP in English 1607 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 2 (AFP)—The mujahidin commander fighting a Soviet-Afghan force trying to break the rebel siege of Khowst has been wounded as fierce clashes were reported in other areas of eastern Afghanistan, resistance sources said here Saturday.

Jalaluddin Haqqani was wounded in his left leg Thursday by shrapnel from an exploding shell as his men held off Soviet-Afghan troops at the entrance to Maranjan pass, the scene of fierce fighting halfway along the 120 kilometre (75 mile) road to the provincial capital, Gardeyz, the sources said.

Mr. Haqqani was in a satisfactory condition, the sources added.

He has been in overall charge of some 10,000 rebels fighting Soviet-Afghan troops who are trying to break the rebel siege of Khowst in what has become one of the biggest battles since Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

The resistance sources said Mr. Haqqani's injuries had not forced him to leave Afghanistan and that heavy fighting was continuing as the rebels pressed on with their siege of the town, encircled since 1979.

Mr. Haqqani, thought to be 45, is widely believed to be number two in the Hezb-e Eslami group led by Muhammad Yunis Khalis.

He was wounded two years ago in fighting around Jhawar, south of Khowst.

Soviet paratroops had been dropped near his command post Friday and were trying to capture it, the sources said.

The resistance sources strongly denied that the Gardeyz-Khowst road had been reopened by Soviet-Afghan troops.

Mujahidin leader Sayyed Bahauddin Majruh, who heads the Afghan Information Centre in Peshawar, denied a TASS report from Moscow that the operation to clear the Gardeyz-Khowst road had been "practically terminated."

He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the Soviet command Friday sent fresh commandos to reinforce some 18,000 soldiers already in the Khowst area.

Mr. Majruh said Soviet troops were using dogs to clear mines along the road.

The heavily mined highway is badly damaged and "it is impossible to repair so easily," he said, contradicting a Radio Kabul report that taxis were plying the road.

Resistance sources, however, said Friday that a small convoy of about 60 trucks had reached Khowst using a side road.

Mr. Majruh said the Soviet command had moved more troops from Jalalabad to Jawzi town, some 30 kilometres (19 miles) north of Khowst.

Reports reaching here Saturday said that the troops had not yet reached Jawzi which is only half controlled by Kabul.

Diplomatic sources here said Soviet-Afghan armoured column was also crossing Lowgar Province to reinforce the troops in Paktia.

Other reports said the rebels have stepped up attacks elsewhere in Afghanistan in an apparent effort to relieve pressure in the Khowst area.

A bomb exploded near Jalalabad Airport Friday, killing five Soviet soldiers and destroying their jeep, the pro-resistance Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said.

The airport was closed for three hours, AIP added.

The rebels also attacked Ghazni Airport Thursday, destroying three helicopters, AIP said, adding that Soviet planes had bombed the area Friday killing 26 people.

Fighting was also reported in the northeastern Panjsher Valley where guerrillas of rebel leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud had captured more than 100 Afghan soldiers when they overan the garrison at Shauba. They also attacked several military outposts in the valley, the resistance sources said.

Another report reaching here said rebel reinforcements were on their way to Khowst.

More on Khowst Situation

BK031352 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 3 (AFP)—An Afghan diplomat said here Sunday that 726 trucks carrying 5,300 tonnes of food and materials had arrived in Khowst since Monday, as resistance sources reported that fighting had intensified in the area.

Qudratullah Ahmadi, the Afghan charges d'affairs here, said the trucks had arrived in four separate convoys in Khowst, scene of the heaviest fighting in the eight-year war between Soviet and Afghan troops and mujahidin rebels.

"The (combat) operations have not been terminated, as there are isolated groups of counter-revolutionary groups (mujahidin) launching rocket attacks from the mountains," Mr. Ahmadi told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Resistance sources here however said heavy fighting was continuing and had spread Sunday to the lower part of the sprawling Zadran valley.

They said Soviet troops, backed by fresh commando units, were now engaging Afghan guerrillas in the Sayyed Kheyl, lower Shamal and Dawamandi areas, after several days of intense clashes along the strategic Maranjan pass, half-way down the 120 kilometer (75 mile) Gardeyz-Khowst highway.

Analysts here said the spread of the fighting to Dawamandi would mean that the pressure on the rebels had mounted significantly.

The sources said most guerrilla leaders had gathered either in the battle zone or in the Pakistani border town of Miran Shah.

An Afghan leader here who contacted Miran Shah said: "The fall of Khowst does not appear impossible."

The mujahidin, who have maintained a siege of Khowst since before the Soviet intervention in December 1979, have denied Soviet-Afghan claims of victory and to have reopened the road between Gardeyz and Khowst.

Mr. Ahmadi said four convoys had reached Khowst by the main road and that they had been warmly welcomed by the town's 40,000 people, who have depended on airlifts since the siege began.

"The situation is normal there," he said. "The normal Gardeyz-Khowst road has been reopened to traffic (and) private cars, buses and taxis can now use it."

Mr. Ahmadi also said that a "round table" meeting had taken place Friday in Khowst between principal tribes in the region—notably the Jaji, Zadran, Mangal, Turi and Ahmedzai.

He said the tribes had "endorsed" Kabul's policy of national reconciliation introduced in January 1987.

The meeting, carried on Afghan television Saturday, decided that "The security of the Gardeyz-Khowst road would be maintained by the local tribes themselves."

Mr. Ahmadi also denounced about 50 foreign advisers—"principal'y American and French"—whom he said were training and guiding the rebels.

"Two among them have been killed," he said. One was American, but the nationality of the other was yet to be established, he added.

Clash Reported in Qandahar

BK020255 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin repulsed the attack of Soviet-Kabul forces on their stronghold in Maywand area of Qandahar. After a day's strong resistance, the raiding forces had to retreat with many dead. The mujahidin seized a heavy machine gun and many other weapons. It is reported that during this attack the mujahidin also shot down a Soviet plane. Reports also say that Soviet-Kabul planes bombed the area killing or wounding many innocent civilians.

Jalalabad Airport Attacked

BK030245 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, fighting is now taking place for the control of Khowst garrison township in the region's hilly areas where mujahidin bases are located. Kabul and the Soviet Union have claimed that the road between Khowst and Gardeyz is now open to traffic but mujahidin have denied it. They have said that Soviet-Kabul troops are moving toward Khowst from three sides. Meanwhile, Soviet newspaper PRAVDA has admitted that the people living around Khowst are against the Kabul administration. The paper has described them as anti-revolutionaries.

Another report says that mujahidin have occupied a military post in the Panjsher valley northeast of the capital Kabul. This has been described as the first mujahidin success in the area in the last 2 years. A report says mujahidin have also occupied two Soviet-Kabul posts in the Nazian area of Nangarhar Province and the Jawzi area of Paktia Province. Meanwhile, five Soviet troops were killed in a bomb explosion near Jalalabad Airport on Friday [3 December]. The airport was closed for 3 hours.

Mujahidin Offensive in Herat

BK041122 Hong Kong AFP in English 1104 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 4 (AFP)—More than 1,000 mujahidin rebels are mounting successive attacks on key Soviet-Afghan positions near Herat, notably an airport, an oil pipeline, and cement works, witnesses said here on return from the western city.

The Muslim rebels have launched attacks in regions throughout Afghanistan in the last few weeks, notably at Herat and in the southern Qandahar area, to tie up troops and prevent the pro-Soviet Kabul regime from sending reinforcements to the besieged eastern garrison town of Khowst, observers said.

"The mujahidin are attacking Afghan Army posts every day," two French travellers told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on return from the Herat combat zone.

Some 1,500 rebels of the moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami mujahidin force, commanded by Isma'il Khan, 40, were launching continuous raids on the pipeline south of Herat, the airport and an important cement works, Patrick Brisay and Laurent Vaudry said after spending more than three months in Aghanistan.

"They (the mujahidin) are attacking the Soviet-Afghan lines only two kilometres (one and a quarter miles) outside Herat city," they said, adding that they saw rebels "pump out a large amount of petrol from the pipeline before withdrawing and set fire to it."

The garrison of Ghurian, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Herat, was surrounded by rebel forces and had not received fresh air supplies for four months, the travellers said.

The Soviets had not launched counter-attacks but were pinned down defending their positions with artillery and mortar fire, said the travellers, both members of the French humanitarian group Raid Guild, who went to the Herat region to buy supplies for several needy Afghan villages.

"The villages have a lot of weapons, but food is scarce," they said.

Protest Made to Pakistan for Border Violations

LD031629 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] The charge d'affaires at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned today to the Foreign Ministry and the following protest note was conveyed to him by the head of the First Political Department:

According to reports by the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan's security forces, a helicopter of the Pakistani Air Force violated the region 8 km south-east of (Toda-e Chani), Nangarhar Province, at 1950 and 2025 on 28 December 1987, at various altitudes before turning back.

The Republic of Afghanistan seriously protests this violation by the military forces of Pakistan to the government of that country. It demands that the relevant authorities of that country prevent any repetition of such irresponsible actions, which do nothing but aggravate the situation on the borders. Otherwise, serious responsibility for such actions will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Spokesman Responds to Ziaul Haq Remarks, Actions

LD010708 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, December 31, BAKHTAR—A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in reply to a question of a correspondent of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY on the latest assertions made by some leaders of different countries of the world on the threshold of December 27, he replied as follows:

After victory of April Revolution in Afghanistan, the Afghan friendship with the Soviet Union elevated to a new qualitative level and resulted in the conclusion of a treaty of friendship, cooperation and good neighborliness between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union which was signed in Moscow on December 5, 1978. Those who saw their unjust interests in the survival of the old social system rose to resist savagely and stubbornly against the people's sovereignty of Afghanistan. They took refuge in the neighbouring countries of Iran and Pakistan in order to organise subversive and revengeful activities against the people of Afghanistan.

The world imperialism and reaction of the region headed by the U.S. imperialism generously folded [as received] the preservers of their plunderous interests in Afghanistan and organised an imposed undeclared war against Afghanistan.

The dimensions of these interventions expanded to the extent that even the territorial integrity of Afghanistan was at jeopardy. At this sensitive moment the old friend of the people of Afghanistan once again came over to help and save them from the plot of imperialism.

Likewise, Ziaul Haq opened in Lahore city a photo exhibition entitled "Afghanistan Jihad". The exhibition indeed exposed the shocking crimes which were committed by the U.S. imperialism in Afghanistan in complicity with Ziaul Haq regime. The mass media of the capitalist countries and the reactionary regime of the region and the world published during the current year commentaries and unrealistic propaganda about Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The worse is that the responsible authorities of the United States, Britain, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, Pakistan, Iran and some other countries which pretend to be in favour of the solution of the situation around Afghanistan through talks disrupt the process of the political solution of the situation by expanding and deepening their interventions into the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

How the equipping of the opposition extremist groups with ground-to-air missiles—Stinger and Blowpipe—can help to the solution of the situation around Afghanistan, cessation of war and securing of peace in the country.

It is better for the statesmen of these countries to put an end to their interventions against the independent and non-aligned republic of Afghanistan.

General Ziaul Haq, the military ruler of Pakistan, who went to Charsada for watching the traditional game of Buzkeshi stated in a Hitlerite manner that he is hopeful to watch the game in the independent and liberated Afghanistan next year. These words are reminding one of words of Hitler who had said to war-stricken German soldiers during the Second World War that he will celebrate his victory in Leningrad city in a few days.

Hitler took his ominous wishes to the grave.

Westerners Infiltrate Under 'Mask of Journalists'
LD020703 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 1, BAKHTAR—The emergence of Western spies and terrorists in the territory of Afghanistan along with the extremist groups under the mask of journalists, cameramen and and advisors adds a new and highly dangerous element to the imperialist policy of the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

The name of one of them became known later Thornten, in the U.S. NEW BREED magazine, a certain Shannon admitted that he had penetrated into Afghan soil three times along with another four mercenaries. They who disguised themselves as reporter and cameramen, had no mission but guiding terrorist and subversive activities of the extremist groupings.

As the author of the book "Washington's Secret War Against Afghanistan" writes that these elements began to penetrate the Afghan soil from Pakistan in 1980.

It occurred many times that these foreign elements fallen victim of the rivalry of different extremist groups. And the Western mass media, in such instances, were trying to show as if the responsibility of killing those elements rest with the Armed Forces, party and the state of Afghanistan.

The lie can not last long and now the Western mass media are forced to admit that the mask of those spies make trouble for them as well.

English language daily HERALD TRIBUNE, published in Paris, writes in its issue December 29 that the so-called international relief organisations are worry about the way of activities of extremist groupings because they resort to the killing of foreign newsman and assistance to attain their goals the one among which is to weaken the position of rival groups.

The author of the article writes that now it becomes clear that the report published in October on the killing of two American newsmen in Afghanistan during a surprised attack made by the Afghan Armed Forces is an absolute lie. For, the newsmen had fallen victim of clashes between different extremist groups.

The list of such instances can be long but the main conclusion can be drawn out is that it which manifest the new dimension of imperialist interferences into Afghanistan is full with serious danger of acceleration of bloodshed in Afghanistan under the condition of national reconciliation policy, according to which construction and state and the next round of Geneva talks would turn to a prospective one which will create favourable conditions for the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. Regrettably, the West is giving lip services in this regards and spares no efforts to endanger the situation in this region, including direct envolvement of spies, terrorists and military advisors in the imposed war against Afghanistan.

Details of Osman Demir Investigation Revealed
LD021809 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Jan 88

["BIA Statement"]

[Text] A BIA correspondent met with representatives of the competent authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan who are in charge of investigating the dossier of Osman Demir, an instructor in subversive and terrorist activities.

According to the BIA correspondent, the investigation shows that Osman Demir, together with his parents, had been living in the FRG for 11 years. He completed his secondary education in this country and in 1982 a man named Heinz recruited him for the FRG intelligence service.

In this organization, Demir was instructed by a person named Kurzmann. Demir completed the quick preparation period for becoming an instructor in the use of Stinger missiles and other various weapons.

Osman Demir has the military rank of second lieutenant. During the investigation, Osman Demir mentioned a number of letters written by persons and addresses and telephone numbers. He also disclosed details of the activities of the FRG intelligence service.

He was twice sent to Afghanistan: to Helmand Province in 1986 and then to Qandahar Province in 1987.

On the basis of his allotted duty, Osman Demir was enaged in collecting military and other reconnaissance information in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He recruited a number of persons—including Pakistani and Afghan citizens—for the FRG intelligence service.

He taught counterrevolutionaries at their training centers in Pakistan and active opposition groups in Afghanistan how to use Stinger missiles. According to his own story, he himself shot down two Afghan planes.

The investigation into the Osman Demir dossier is continuing.

Najibullah, Delegation Return From Tour 31 Dec
LD311844 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, who led a party and government delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan on an official and friendly visit to the SRV and the PRK, at the official invitation of the party and government leadership of these countries, and

also visited the Republic of India and talked with the leaders of that country, arrived in Kabul today at approximately 1630. [passage omitted]

Communique on Najibullah Visit to Cambodia
LD011753 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 31 Dec 87

["Text" of the Afghan-Cambodian joint communique on Najibullah's visit 29-31 December]

[Text] At the invitation of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] and the PRK State Council, esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of Afghanistan, paid an official friendly visit 29-31 December 1987.

The party and state delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan on its visit to Cambodia was warmly welcomed by Heng Samrin, secretary general of the KPRP and president of the PRK State Council.

The delegation laid a wreath at the historical memorial of the martyrs of Cambodia, visited the national exhibition of the [words indistinct] museum and a number of economic and cultural establishments in Phnom Penh. The delegation was welcomed warmly and sincerly by the Cambodian people everywhere.

The high-ranking party and state delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, led by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, carried out official talks with the high-ranking party and state delegation of PRK led by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and president of the PRK State Council. The two sides informed each other about the situation in their countries and exchanged views about more measures to strengthen and extend relations between the two countries. To achieve this the two sides signed a protocol of friendship and cooperation and other documents at the end of the visit.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship and sincerity. The two sides expressed similar (?viewpoints) concerning the issues they discussed.

The official talks were attended on the Afghan side by esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan; 'Abdul Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister; Shanawa Tani, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces; 'Abdulhamid Mohtat, deputy prime minister; Muhammad Shafi 'Azizi, nonresident Afghan ambassador to the PRK.

The following were present from the Cambodian side: Esteemed Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and president of the PRK State Council; Chea Sot, member of KPRP Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Bou Thang, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Soy Keo, deputy minister of defense; Dit Munti, deputy foreign minister; and Im Chhnlim, deputy head of Cabinet of the KPRP Central Committee.

During the talks, the Afghan side expressed its comprehensive solidarity and support for the just cause of the fraternal people of Cambodia in order to successfully implement the policy of national reconciliation, to ensure self-determination and the realization of the great aims of national liberation—national deliverance—which began with the resurrection of January 1979. The Afghan side also expressed appreciation for the honest efforts by the Cambodian leadership in tring to normalize [word indistinct] and stabilize the situation in the region and in order to transform Southeast Asia into a region of long-lasting peace, stability, cooperation, and goodneighborliness. The Afghan side also expressed its complete support for the historical meeting between Comrade Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk in order to resolve the Cambodian problem by political means.

While exchanging views, the Cambodian side expressed its decisive support for the results of the second nationwide PDPA conference and the Grand Assembly of Afghan people in implementing the national reconciliation policy in the interest of ensuring peace and stability in the country and region.

The Cambodian side expressed assurance that the people of revolutionary Afghanistan will achieve great successes toward victory in the struggle to safeguard their independence and peacefully develop their society in light of the new Constitution, which has been approved by the Grand Assembly.

The Cambodian side declared its complete support for the flexible Afghan stand at the Geneva talks aimed at resolving the problem concerning the situation around Afghanistan. Both sides, having stressed their joint views concerning international issues, specified the will of the peoples of Afghanistan and the PRK toward ensuring the close cooperation and strengthening of peace and security on the Asian Continent. They expressed their assurance that bilateral relations are based on the principles of brotherhood and mutual beneficial cooperation and friendship.

Both sides expressed their complete support for the proposals by the three Indochinese countries—the PRK, the SRV, and the LPDR—toward resolving regional issues by resorting to peaceful means, which can contribute to ensuring peace, security, stability, and cooperation in the region and all over the world.

Both sides expressed their desire to strengthen friendly relations with their neighbors. For example, the Cambodian side expressed readiness to have relations based on goodneighborliness with the royal regime of Thailand

and use its efforts to transform the Cambodian-Thai border to one of peace and stability. The PRK will also try to revive its traditional relations with the PRC.

Similarly, the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to establish relations based on good-neighborliness with Pakistan, Iran, and the PRC and to create borders of friendship and peace with these countries in the interests of the people of the relevant countries.

After highly valuing the initiatives Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee of the Soviet Union, made in Vladivostok in connection with the idea of creating a system of stability and security in the Asian-Pacific region, they expressed full support for the Delhi Declaration on building a world free from a nuclear arms race and tension and for the initiative of the Republic of Mongolia in connection with holding a conference on the nonuse of force and nonaggression among Asian and Pacific countries.

Having welcomed the peaceful [word indistinct] by the Soviet Union and other peace-loving countries, both sides supported the signing of the treaty eliminating intermediate and shorter-range missiles between M. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington on 8 December 1987. They called it an outstanding example of the effective results, saying it completely conformed with the demands of all humanity, which desires peace and the building of a world free from the danger of nuclear catastrophes.

The two sides welcomed India's peaceful foreign policy and praised India's participation in resolving regional and international problems to strengthen the principles of peace and stability in Asia and throughout the world.

The two sides expressed support for the plan to transform the Indian Ocean into a peace zone.

They expressed their solidarity with the just struggle of the people of Nicaragua, [name indistinct], and other countries and peoples of Latin America and the region of [name indistinct] against the conspiracy of imperialism. They warmly welcomed efforts to resolve, by political means, the problems in central Asia and to safeguard and extend detente in the region and the world.

The two sides decisively supported the just struggle by the people of Arab Palestine, South Africa, and Namibia, which has been launched against imperialism, and all kinds of [words indistinct] apartheid and racism for the cause of freedom, independence, and social progress.

The delegations of the two countries expressed the confidence that the friendly relations between them are strengthening. The two sides agreed that the situation in their countries is similar in several respects. They require that the exchange of mutual experiences be expanded and strengthened.

The two sides stressed the successful visit of the party and state delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, led by esteemed Najibullah, to the PRK and pointed out that they ar fully confident that this successful visit will play an important part toward the further consolidation and expansion of friendly relations and cooperation between them.

The party and state delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan expressed thanks and appreciation to the KPRP Central Committee, the State Council, the National Assembly, and the Council of Ministers of the PRK, the people of Phnom Penh, and all the people of Cambodia for the warm and friendly welcome given to the Afghan delegation.

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, invited esteemed Heng Samrin, secretary general of the KPRP Central Committee and president of the PRK State Council, to pay an official visit to the Republic of Afghanistan. This invitation was accepted with pleasure. The date for the visit will be set through diplomatic channels.

Najibullah on Opposition, Pakistani Relations

BK011452 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Dec 87 pp 1, 6

["Excerpts" from an interview with President Najibullah by Rahimullah Yusufzai in Kabul on 10 December]

[Text] Peshawar, Dec 15: Afghanistan's new President Dr. Najibullah has said his Government will not oppose the convening of a more representative loya jirgah to take far-reaching decisions about the future of the country, including amendments in the recently approved Constitution, if the majority of Afghans make such a demand.

In an interview with "THE MUSLIM" which took place in the heavily-guarded ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) headquarters located near Pashtunistan Chowkay in the heart of Kabul city on Dec 10, he pointed out that "the people (Loya Jirgah) have made the decisions and they are empowered to effect the necessary changes." He, however, did not indicate what mechanism could be adopted to find out the wishes of the people, especially those who support the opposition viewpoint. He said that invitations were duly extended to all those opposed to his regime to participate in the Loya Jirgah because it was his belief that every dispute could be resolved through a dialogue.

41-year old Dr. Najibullah, speaking in chaste Pashto, answered a number of supplementary questions and elaborated the written answers to the questions sent earlier in a 35-minute chat over a cup of green tea.

The Afghan president in his introductory remarks said his government was stretching out the hand of peace to any one who sincerely strove towards that end. He

admitted that his administration was in effective control of only 60 percent of Afghanistan's cities and towns and 20 percent of its countryside. Dr Najib refuted allegations that his government was sponsoring terrorist acts in Pakistan and instead blamed Islamabad for committing aggression against Afghanistan. He strongly criticised the United States for supplying Stinger missiles to his regime's opponents who he alleged had mostly used them against civilian and transport planes, and warned that provision of sophisticated weapons to "terrorist and extremist elements" could endanger air traffic in other parts of the world.

Describing the refugees as "the pains and tears of Afghanistan," he claimed one hundred thousand had already returned home while many more wanted to come but were being stopped by Afghan extremists and Pakistan authorities by "threat, blackmail, murder and propaganda." He also seemed willing to admit that a group within the PDPA loyal to former President Babrak Karmal was opposed to the national reconciliation policy now being pursued by his government.

Following are excerpts from the interview:

Q: You said in a press conference in Moscow that your government is in control of 60 percent of cities and 20 percent of the countryside in Afghanistan. Were you correctly quoted?

A: These data are based on the true assessment of the situation in the country. But it is necessary to take into account the dynamism of the processes which have taken place due to the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation. Objectively, they bring about their effects on the development of the situation in the country including the establishment of new peace zones.

Q: What has been the effect of the Stinger and other sophisticated weapons on the Afghan war?

A: As practice demonstrates, those weapons are not as dangerous for military aircraft as they are for civilian and transport planes. The very fact that peace-loving residents and civilians have been killed due to the utilisation of this system of weapons cause the wrath and indignation of the broad strata of the Afghan people. Now, probably, one can speak about the true psychological effects of the weapons on the USA, which is concerned about the possible utilisation of its own systems, being handed over to extremists, against its Air Force in the Persian Gulf. Because no one can guarantee that these systems will not be used against civilian aircraft in other parts of the world.

Q: The Pakistan Government is sure that your regime, through KHAD, is sponsoring subversive activities in Pakistan which has taken a heavy toll of life. How do you respond to these charges?

A: These allegations are known to us. To escape the consequences of the intensifying problems existing in the internal policies of Pakistan and from among them the problems relating to the presence of the armed extremist groupings in this country, they try to relate the gravity of the situation to the Afghan side. Obviously it is not for nothing that the Pakistani authorities are transferring the camps of the extremists to the less-populated areas.

Q: Pakistan also says that your Air Force and artillery has frequently bombarded and shelled its territory killing and maiming many in the border areas. What are your comments?

A: As you know, the truth about firing by Pakistan on the Afghan territory is clear to all and has been proved time and again. The Afghan side has repeatedly lodged protests to the Pakistan Government in regard to firing and provocative bombardments against the territory of Afghanistan. For instance, the discovery of the truth on the launching of Stinger missiles and other military ammunitions from the territory of Pakistan on the residential areas in the provinces of Nangarhar, Konar, Paktika, and Qandahar testifies to this fact. Moreover, it should be taken into account that the undeclared war against Afghanistan is continuing. In this war the major groups of the counter-revolutionaries are being concentrated, armed and provided military training on the soil of Pakistan. They are active in the frontier tribal areas inhabited by tribesmen who traditionally recognise no borders and make use of their weapons, including heavy ones, to defend their areas against the extremist groups.

Q: Certain Afghan nationals caught in Pakistan on charges of committing terrorist acts confessed they were sent by KHAD with promises of monetary returns and marriages with pretty girls in return for exploding bombs? How far is this true?

A: I have already answered this question. But I could add that the merciless killings and torture of their opponents, by the extremists opponents in this camps located in Pakistan that are being headlined by the Western information agencies and televisions, are evidence of the fact that this way one could also get confessions. Meanwhile, you can feel the unpoliteness of your question which tries by referring to the "beautiful girls" to cover up this rudeness.

Q: Public opinion tends to turn against your government in Pakistan when innocent people get killed in acts of sabotage and bombardments and shellings? What do you intend to do about this?

A: I can once again repeat that the responsibility for the protests and rebellions that take place in Pakistan rests on Pakistan's leadership that has given full freedom of action to the Afghan extremists on their territory.

Q: Your government has been inviting Pakistani politicians and leaders of public opinion to visit Afghanistan in a bid to win wider support for the PDPA regime. Only Air Marshal (Retd.) Asghar Khan, apart from ANP [Awawi National Party] leader and lawyer Syed Afzal Haider, have so far responded to your invitation. Have you been discouraged by their response, especially in the present circumstances when attacks on Wali Khan and later, on the ANP delegation near Towr Kham, is likely to turn away prospective visitors?

A: Concerning Wali Khan one can approach the issue in different ways. But no one can deny the very fact that Wali Khan is a credible personality in this region. How do you, who strived to shoot him from the Pakistan territory, approach this issue? Is this very fact not a response to your previous question concerning the terrorist and destructive acts of Pakistan? Doesn't your question testify to the fact that now the Afghan extremists have begun to dictate to Pakistan how to go about its relations with other countries. We sincerely want a dialogue with politicians and representatives from Pakistan and are ready to receive any delegation. We are hopeful that common sense will prevail.

Q: How many times has your government asked Pakistan to be allowed to send planes to fly refugees back home. Second, do you still plan to send a jirgah to Pakistan to persuade the refugees into returning home?

A: The refugees! They are the pains and tears of Afghanistan. Now the process of return of the refugees has intensified. But this process is not that strong as was expected because this question is related to many other tangles which have not been settled in Pakistan. We are always ready to send our representatives to Pakistan to explain the policy of national reconciliation to the refugees and help them return home.

Q: How many refugees do you think are in Pakistan and how many of them have returned? What proof you have that refugees have been stopped from coming home?

A: As a result of the policy of national reconciliation, a hundred thousand Afghan refugees have returned home. We have specific facts at our disposal that the Afghan extremists and Pakistani authorities by threat, blackmail, murder, forced prevention, lure and propaganda prevent the refugees from returning home. Facts and witnesses about this situation are always reported in the Afghan press.

Q: Will you specify the exact number of Soviet limited contingent in Afghanistan? What is the effective strength of Afghan Armed Forces and how much has been the increase in its numbers since December 1979? Do you concede there have been large-scale desertions from your Armed Forces?

A: Whenever combat operations are carried out such questions are mostly not replied. I can state that the number of the limited Soviet military contingents which entered Afghanistan at our request has been reduced. They would however remain at that level till an agreement is reached in the Geneva talks, to enable them to protect and preserve the projects of national economy, airports and transmission lines, to construct hospitals schools and other socio-economic projects, and to assist in the distribution of Soviet gratis aid. The number of our Armed Forces, the combat capability of which increases day by day, has now risen to about 500,000. Concerning desertions, the rumours spread by the West in this regard are very much exaggerated. The characteristic of the situation in Afghanistan is being summed up in the part that the extremists make use of threat about the physical annihilation of our military personnel in the areas under their control. This matter, to a certain extent, brings about its effects on the morale of the residents of these localities.

Q: What were the real causes which led to the removal of prominent party members like Anahita Ratebzad and Mahmud Barialay from the D.P.A. Politburo and about 11 others from the central committee? Was it due to their loyalties to former President Babrak Karmal?

A: All these measures have not been adopted against Babrak Karmal. Those who made use of the name of Babrak Karmal are the ones who during this difficult stage in the life of our country have been unable to correctly understand the socio-economic process of the content of the policy of national reconciliation to resolve big and multi-faceted tasks related to our party and country.

Q: We hear a lot about the continuing khalqi-parchami rift in P.D.P.A." What is the actual position and are there differences on national reconciliation?

A: The current process under way in the country is extremely complicated and contradictory. Under such a difficult situation there can exist different opinions. Along with all the people of the country the party have also traversed this difficult path. Everyone has the right to express his/her views and conduct open discussions. But our party has always struggled and will continue to do so against all kinds of factionalism, particularly since the 18th Plenum of the P.D.P.A. Central Committee. The second P.D.P.A. national conference which was convened recently witnessed that the party presently is more cohesive and united than ever before. In this conference party members took oath to be loyal to the cause of preserving the unity in P.D.P.A. ranks. Confirmation of the party policy towards national reconciliation by members is the guarantor of unity in its ranks. Our party has resolutely struggled and will struggle against all kinds of factionalism.

Q: Don't you think reversal of earlier P.D.P.A. policies and greater stress on Islam amounts to surrendering to opposition arguments?

A: With a profound respect for Islam, we are endeavouring that its injunctions help us in bettering the lot of the people. At the same time, we must not allow reactionary forces to abuse Islam to prevent progress and enlightenment in the country. The construction of new mosques and madrasas [Muslim schools], financial assistance to mullahs and other religious scholars, and lately the enactment of the Constitution, (wherein Islam has been declared as a religion of Afghanistan) bear testimony to our sincere approach towards Islam. The policy of national reconciliation visualises the participation of all the forces in the state organs. Why should they then resort to blackmail against themselves? Our constructive position has been made clear by inserting it in the Constitution which explains that our viewpoint in this context is both principled and of a long-term nature.

Q: There was no mention of the Pashtun and Baluchi free tribes in the Loya Jirgah and the new Constitution. Does this mean a softening of your stand on the question of national rights? Moreover, the Afghan Government has lately been talking about the rights of Sindhis, Punjabis and other peoples of Pakistan as well. Does this mean something?

A: Our policy with respect to free Pashtun and Baluchi tribes has been explained in the programmatic documents of the P.D.P.A. Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, such as the "Appeal to the Pashtun Brothers." Likewise, the proceedings of the High Jirgah of Frontier Tribes has also referred to this aspect of our policy. No change whatsoever has taken place in our policy. Our Constitution guarantees the equality of rights of all tribes and peoples of Afghanistan. We wish that all problems of tribes and people may they be in Afghanistan, Pakistan or in other regions of the world, are solved democratically.

Q: According to Afghan and Pashtun traditions, there can only be a national reconciliation between antagonists seated together. How can there be national reconciliation one-sidedly?

A: I don't understand why you are separating Afghans from Pashtuns, because Pashtuns are also Afghans. All the parties involved in Afghanistan have a common history, traditions and culture. To be precise, they belong to a single homeland. It is according to this principle that our policy of national reconciliation is being implemented. It is not necessary to counterpoise the unilateral ceasefire declared by the people's government in Afghanistan to our offer for a comprehensive and alround dialogue to all those who hold the destiny of the country dear to their heart.

Q: Is there any provision in the Constitution to amend it to carry proposals of your regime's opponents once there is national reconciliation? Also, do you foresee holding of a more representative loya jirgah to include representatives of opposition in case there is a settlement?

A: In the new Constitution recently adopted by the representative Loya Jirgah, democratic principles are enshrined that provide possibilities for the opposition to participate in the political life of the country. Apart from that even before the convening of the Loya Jirgah invitations were extended to the opposition forces to take part in its proceedings. All the problems that you have mentioned can be resolved through a dialogue. If majority of the people support opposition viewpoint concerning the whole process including amendments in the Constitution and demand the holding of another loya jirgah, We will not oppose it. The people (loya jirga) have made the decisions and they are empowered to make the necessary changes.

Q: Don't you think a superpower agreement on Afghanistan will confirm that it is a regional or international dispute unlike your contention that it is an internal problem?

A: The external forces are now virtually involved in the internal conflict of the Republic of Afghanistan due to the armed intervention on the part of the opponents of April Revolution. The enemies of Afghanistan are trying to impart a worldwide and permanent character to our internal disputes. We welcome every measure aimed at ceasing external interference and the fratricidal war in Afghanistan. But, as stated earlier, we are convinced that the ultimate resolution of this issue depends upon the people of Afghanistan.

Q: How much arms have your government succeeded in buying from armed opponents of your regime which are up for sale? Does it include Stinger missiles and how much was the price?

A: The contents of your question are not very clear. When you mention the purchase of weaponry from our opponents we will like to highlight a few pertinent points. The conditions created by the protracted conflict in Afghanistan has resulted in the unprecedented spread of arms and ammunition which occasionally is also used for self-defence rather than being employed against the power of the people (i.e. the government). Our government is making efforts to utilise every opportunity for stopping bloodshed and ushering in peace in the country. This is precisely the reason that such unusual methods like the purchase of weapons by the state from its subjects are resorted to. This is a proof of the sincerity and wide range of our efforts to bring peace in the the country. It is obvious that we don't limit the quantity and nature of the weapons which are on our purchase list. The prices of the weapons up for sale are decided individually and in accordance with the rate demanded by the seller.

Q: Your government have been inviting tribesmen from Pakistan and holding their jirgahs? What is the purpose of this?

A: Facts concerning the mutual relations between Pakistani authorities vis-a-vis the Pashtun tribes are too obvious. The events in the areas of Afridi, Shinwari and Turi tribes testify to this fact. it is not correct that we convene jirgahs of Pashtun tribes as they themselves hold such jirgahs. We will extend every possible help in holding of such jirgahs if it is demanded. It seems the situation in Pakistan is not conducive for holding tribal jirgahs. The government of Afghanistan has never impeded social contacts between the Pashtun tribes and the holding of their jirgahs on our soil as such practices don't contravene the position of the free tribal zone and also conform to the customs and traditions of Pashtuns. The Pashtun tribes have always been militant and armed. Under prevailing circumstances when extremists are busy carrying out military operations in the tribal areas. The quantity of weapons possessed by the tribesmen has increased manifold in all the tribal belt.

Bangladesh

Ershad on Army's Part in Maintaining Peace

BK311325 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] The Bangladesh president has said the development of military sector contributes to the maintenance of peace and stability in the country. He was speaking at the graduation ceremony of the 12th Army, 6th Naval and 8th Air Staff courses of Defense Services Command and Staff College in Dhaka today.

President Ershad said in the task of upholding national solidarity and integrity, the Armed Forces will have to play a major role. He said the liberation war saw the emergence of today's defense force, and the ideology of nationalism in Bangladesh aims at mobilizing people to uphold national solidarity and integrity.

The president said the strategic location of Bangladesh demands it to play an increasingl; important role in the maintenance of peace and stability in this region.

Forty-six officers from Army, Navy, and Air Force, including 14 from the USA, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, and Zambia were graduated from the specialized military course leading to PSC [expansion unknown].

Ershad Urges Opposition To Participate in Polls

BK311636 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Excerpt] President Ershad has said only elections can save the nation from terrorism and indiscipline and it is the only constitutional means to change the government. Hence, elections will be held as per schedule to be announced by the Election Commission. He was addressing a mammoth peasants rally at (Chak Khil) in Noakhali today.

The president asked the opposition political parties to judge their popularity through polls instead of indulging in terrorism and anarchy and keeping the people hostages in their hands. He said those who have been creating indiscipline and terrorism in the country do not want the welfare of the people. As a result of aimless and senseless politics by some opposition parties, development and progress of the country have been suffering immensely. The country is to suffer a loss of 150 crore taka in 1 hartal [strike] day and it will take a long time to amend the losses for the last 2 months.

The president said the tide of development generated by the pragmatic steps taken by his government is being hampered due to the programs of the opposition parties. Through their programs, the opposition leaders are not only hindering the national progress but also compromising the interests of the country with alliance forces. The president said he will make all-out efforts to lead the nation toward the path of progress and prosperity. Time is not far off when politics of terrorism and indiscipline will come to an end. [passage omitted]

'No Alternative' to Elections

BK011604 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] President Ershad has said the democratic process, which ensures the sovereignty of the electorate over the state affairs, cannot be allowed to be impaired by the whims and caprices of a section of political parties. He was addressing a discussion meeting followed by a milad mehfil [religious gathering] marking the 2d founding anniversary of the Jatiya Party at party headquarters in Dhaka today. The president, who is also the chairman of the Jatiya Party, said the aspirations of the people cannot be allowed to be frustrated by giving in to party or interest of a section of politicians.

Referring to the opposition program and destructive politics of a section of political parties, the president said such negative politics is the manifestation of a deep-rooted conspiracy against national progress and sovereignty. He asserted there is no alternative to elections in changing the government in a democracy. He said Jatiya Party and other political parties will participate in the polls to advance democracy.

Polls To Be Held As Scheduled

BK021559 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] President Ershad has categorically said the elections to the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] will be held as per the schedule announced by the election commission. He was addressing a conference of the leaders of over 70

political parties at the MP's club in Dhaka today. The president, who paid a surprise visit to the conference, said the polls will not be affected even if a handful of political parties, including the Awami League and BNP, do not take part in the elections. He said it is the judicious choice of these political parties whether to take part in the elections or not. Elections cannot wait for their participation and it is not the responsibility of the government to cajole them to participate. JSD [Jatiya Sramik Dal] leader, A.S.M. Abdul Rab, also addressed the conference. Information Minister Anwar Zahid was present on the occasion.

Prime Minister Calls on Parties To Join Polls
BK311355 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Bangladesh Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has called upon political parties and alliances to take part in polls for giving democracy and constitutional rule a solid foundation in the country. He was formally releasing in Dhaka today a commemorative postal stamp on the 1st anniversary of institutionalization of democracy which marked the beginning of constitutional rule in the country. The prime minister said the elections to Parliament must be held by the 5th of March next as it is obligatory under the Constitution. If the polls are not held within the period, there can be more chaos and confusion.

Parliamentary Election To Be Held 28 Feb
BK011249 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Parliamentary election in Bangladesh will be held on Sunday, the 28th of next month. The schedule for this election was announced by the Bangladesh Election Commission in Dhaka today. Nomination papers are to be filed on the 20th of this month. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on the next day, and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is 27th of this month.

The Election Commission has taken all necessary measures to ensure the holding of a free, fair, and impartial election with a view to constituting a representative parliament. The Election Commission expects that all the political parties of the country as well as people from all walks of life will extend their wholehearted cooperation in holding the general election to the Parliament in a peaceful atmosphere. The Election Commission also expects that the executive authorities would maintain the neutrality to enable the commission to hold a free, fair, and impartial election.

As already reported, the Bangladesh Parliament was dissolved on 6th of last month under the provisions of Article 72-1 of the Constitution of the Republic.

Opposition Wants Polls Under Neutral Government
BK011320 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] BNP chief and leader of the seven-party alliance, Begum Khaleda Zia, has urged the people to continue their movement until the power is handed over to a neutral government for holding free and fair polls. Talking to party workers and supporters at Jatrabari in Dhaka on Thursday [31 December], she said her party and alliances will not take part in any election until the resignation of the present government.

The central working committee of Awami League held a meeting in Dhaka on Thursday with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The meeting discussed the latest political situation in the country.

The Communist Party demanded elections under a caretaker government.

Major Opposition Parties Reject Election
BK021304 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, BNP, Begum Khaleda Zia has said the election schedule has been announced to divert the ongoing democratic movement in the country. In a statement, she said the people will foil any move to divert the movement and reject the election.

The Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina, has said there can be no free and fair elections in the country under the present government.

The Liaison Committee of three opposition alliances has also reiterated its demand for handing over power to a nonparty man acceptable to the alliances for holding elections.

The 27 Islamic political parties and organizations have called upon the patriotic people to solve the present unrest by taking part in the elections. But the amir of Jamiat-i Islami, Abbas Ali Khan, says his party cannot take part in the ensuing election unless the polls are held under a caretaker government.

Meanwhile, the ruling Jatiya Party has invited applications from the candidates seeking party nomination for the coming elections to the National Parliament.

Awami League, Others Reject Polls
BK030214 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 3 Jan 87

[Text] The executive committee of Awami League in a statement has said the announcement of the schedule of fresh elections to parliament is a attempt to divert people's attention from what it said is the current movement for the resignation of the government. The

party demanded early release of all political detenus [detainees], withdrawal of emergency, and lifting of restrictions on all newspapers.

The acting amir [chief] of Jamiat-i Islami, Mr Abbas Ali Khan, in a statement said the political crisis has further deepened with the announcement of the election schedule before handing over power to a caretaker government.

President of Bangladesh Muslim League, Qazi Abdul Saddiq, called upon the government to accept the demand of his party to hold elections under a neutral and non-party government for establishing a genuine democratic government.

National Awami Party President Professor Muzaffar Ahmed and General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharya have demanded withdrawal of emergency and release of all political prisoners.

Acting general secretary of CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh], Faizul Ahmed Manik, has said the announcement of the election schedule is contrary to the will of the people.

The other parties which have issued statements include Pragatishil Ganotantrik Shakti [Progressive Democratic Force], Janodal, Bangladesh Union Parishad [council] Secretaries Association, and Bangladesh [words indistinct].

Opposition Parties Announce 15-Day Agitation

BK031616 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Twenty-one opposition parties of Bangladesh have announced a fresh 15-day agitational program from Tuesday demanding the resignation of President Ershad. Their other demands include handing over of power to a neutral caretaker government to ensure a free and fair poll.

Meanwhile, addressing separate rallies the opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia reiterated their decision not to take part in the poll. They said the election is not an alternative to their demand for the resignation of President Ershad. The two leaders made it clear that they will not accept any election under the Ershad government.

Meanwhile, President Ershad has said that the parliamentary elections will be held as announced. The government will go ahead with the election despite the refusal of the opposition parties to participate in it. Addressing a conference of leaders of some political parties in Dhaka, he charged the opposition groups with indulging in acts of terrorism and anarchy.

In another development, over 70 political parties and organizations have decided to launch a combined opposition front and participate in the election to be held on the 28th of next month.

Curfew To Be Reimposed in Dhaka, Other Towns

BK011552 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Curfew will be reimposed from 0000 tonight and will continue till 0400 tomorrow morning in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Narayanganj. The industrial areas of Demra, Adamji, Fatullah, and Faujdar Hat will however remain outside the purview of curfew.

Ershad Leaves for Visits to Egypt, Iraq

BK040807 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] President Ershad left Dhaka this morning for Cairo on state visits to Egypt and Iraq. The president is accompanied by Begum Roushan Ershad, Vice President Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, ministers, chief of three services, diplomats, and high civil and military officials were present at the Zia International Airport to see the president off.

President Ershad was given a guard of honor by a smartly turned out contingent drawn from the three services. He took the salute and later inspected it. The president's entourage include Religious Affairs Minister Maulana M.A. Mannan, Jute Minister Zafar Imam, Deputy Minister of Commerce H.M.A. Ghaffar, and secretaries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Food, Shipping and IWT [Inland Water Transport].

On the conclusion of his 4-day visit to Egypt, President Ershad will go on to Baghdad on a day's state visit on Thursday [7 January]. He leaves the Iraqi capital the same evening to reach Jeddah the same day. After an overnight stay at Jeddah, the president will go to Mecca Al-Mukarrammah to perform umrah [unscheduled pilgrimage] at the holy Ka'bah Sharif. The same day he will visit Medina Al-Munawwarah to offer ziarat [visit] at the holy Rauza-i Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad, Sallallaho Alaihe Osallam [may God's blessings be upon him]. The president will return to Dhaka on Saturday [9 January] morning.

India

Bangladesh Charge Causes 'Amazement'

BK011610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] An official spokesman today expressed India's amazement over the statement of the secretary general of the ruling Jatiya Party in Bangladesh that the opposition agitation in his country started after a particular nation

was refused transit facilities for its troops. Responding to queries by newsmen, he said the reference clearly points to India. He said we have at no time asked Bangladesh for transit facilities for our troops, nor ever hinted at any such thing. He said the assertion is thus blatantly false.

If the insinuation is that such facilities are requested to engage China, with which India is improving its relations, it is clearly a figment of imagination. He hoped that this offensive and unfriendly allegation against India will stop. He said unfortunately, the latest outburst coincides with others made by some Bangladesh leaders and these seek to blame India without any basis for the present agitation by the opposition in that country against the government.

Najibullah, Delegation Stop Over in Delhi

LD311837 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and his accompanying delegation, arrived in New Delhi at 1430 today on his way back to the homeland. At Gandhi Airport esteemed Najibullah and his accompanying delegation were welcomed by His Excellency Natwar Singh, minister of state for external affairs of the Republic of India; a number of high-ranking officials; Abdol Samad Azhur, ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan in New Delhi, and members of the Afghan Embassy.

After stopping 1 hour at Gandhi Airport in New Delhi, esteemed Najibullah and his accompanying delegation left New Delhi for the homeland.

News Blackout on Anti-Naxalite Operations

BK311652 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 31 (AFP)—A south Indian state has ordered a news blackout on future police operations against Maoist rebels after the release of eight prisoners in exchange for six administrators taken hostage.

Andhra Pradesh's director-general of police P.S. Ramamchan Rao said in the state capital Hyderabad on Wednesday that journalists would not be told of anti-rebel operations any more to protect hostages' lives, Indian news agency reports said Thursday.

His statement came after rebels belonging to the People's War Group on Wednesday freed six administrators they kidnapped on Sunday in exchange for eight of their jailed comrades in the first swap of its kind in India.

Mr. Rao told a news conference that the 55-hour episode had exposed "the dangers of contemporaneous news reporting" which widely publicised a possible commando rescue operation and endangered the officials' lives.

The officers were, however, reported to have been treated well by their kidnappers who lectured them about "police repression" against Maoists, known in India as Naxalites.

Meanwhile, the federal government warned here Wednesday that it will use "whatever force is required to meet terrorism effectively".

"It is totally unacceptable that government officials should become victims of this kind of terror," a statement issued here said. "The government would like to warn all terrorist and extremist elements in the country that such acts will be met with strongest countermeasures from the side of the government."

New Delhi on Monday airlifted 100 paramilitary commandos to Andhra Pradesh in a bid to free the kidnapped officials, all members of the prestigious Indian administrative service, but the commandos did not swing into action.

In a veiled criticism of the state government, controlled by the opposition Telugu Desam Party, the federal government said "succumbing to the threat of terrorism will only encourage extremists".

People's War is the most active of several Maoist groups fighting for radical economic reform in Andhra Pradesh and is blamed for the murder of 62 people, including 24 policemen, in the state this year.

Tamil Nadu Faces Political Leadership Crisis

BK311644 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] A political crisis has developed in Tamil Nadu. The acting chief minister, Mr V.R. Nehunchezhiyan, has questioned the authority of the All-India Anna DMK deputy general secretary, Mr Raghava Anandam, to summon the meeting of the legislative wing on Saturday to elect a new leader in place of M.G. Ramachandran.

Mr Nedunchezhiyan told newsmen this evening that he and his supporters will not attend the meeting as Mr Raghava Anandam has neither any connection with the legislative wing nor has the authority to call the meeting. He said a meeting should not be held now because of the tense atmosphere. He also alleged that some MLA's [Members of the Legislative Assembly] are being kidnapped.

Replying to a question, Mr Nedunchezhiyan said there is no constitutional obligation on him to summon a legislative wing meeting. However, he is examining the rules under which a meeting can be called as the legislative wing has no secretary. He also said that the governor has not set any deadline for the meeting.

Two senior ministers—Mr S. Ramachandran and Mr K. Rajaram—were also present at the news conference.

Mr Raghava Anandam, however, asserts that he has the authority to summon a meeting of the legislative wing. He cited an instance when the then general secretary of the party, Mr P.U. Shanmugam, summoned the newly elected legislative wing of the party in December 1984. He added that Mr Nedunchezhiyan had attended that meeting.

Earlier, Mr Raghava Anandam, who is the st/st party functionary, summoned a meeting of the legislative wing on Saturday to elect its new leader. In the morning, Mrs Janaki Ramachandran, widow of the late Tamil Nadu chief minister, M.G. Ramachandran, announced her candidature for the leadership of the party. She also claimed that majority of the MLA's are also supporting her.

Mr Nedunchezhiyan, however, made it clear that the present ministry under his leadership should continue for 2 years till the next general election in the state.

Ramachandran's Widow Heads AIADMK

BK020818 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Mrs Janaki Ramachandran, wife of the late Tamil Nadu chief minister, M.G. Ramachandran, was unanimously elected leader of the AIADMK Legislature Party in Madras today. The meeting of the Janaki faction of the party was convened by the senior deputy secretary of the party, Mr S. Ragavanandam.

The acting chief minister, Mr Nedunchezhiyan, and four of his cabinet colleagues besides some other MLA's boycotted the meeting. Mrs Janaki's name was proposed by the state local administration minister, Mr R.M. Veerappan, and seconded by the health minister, Mr P.U. Shanmugam. Mr Ragavanandam said the meeting was attended by 97 of the 131 party MLA's.

As already reported, the other faction led by Mr Nedunchezhiyan is also meeting today to elect the party leader.

Rival Faction Elects Leader

BK020905 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Mrs Janaki Ramachandran, wife of the late Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, was unanimously elected leader of the Janaki faction of the AIADMK legislature party in Madras today. The meeting of the party was convened by the senior deputy secretary of the faction, Mr S. Ragavanandam. [passage omitted]

The other faction led by Mr Nedunchezhiyan also held its meeting separately in Madras today. It elected Mr Nedunchezhiyan as leader of the legislature party of its faction. Mr Nedunchezhiyan's name was moved by the food minister, Mr S. Ramachandran, and seconded by the industries minister, Mr K. Rajaram.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, the AIADMK headquarters secretary, Mr Aranganayagam, claimed that 70 MLA's supported the candidature of Mr Nedunchezhiyan as legislature party leader. The meeting also ratified the election of Miss Jayalalitha as the general secretary of the party.

Janaki Asked To Form Government

BK031640 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Mrs Janaki Ramachandran has been invited by the Tamil Nadu governor, Mr S.L. Khurana, to form a government. Her ministry will assume office on Thursday. The governor announced this at a crowded news conference in Madras this evening after meeting both the factions of the All India Anna DMK separately. Mr Khurana said that under the Constitution he has to invite the leader of the largest group to form the ministry. He said Mrs Janaki Ramachandran commands the support of 97 MLA's in a house of 235 of which 12 seats are vacant. He said she has also assured him that she would prove her absolute majority in the Legislative Assembly as early as possible, in any case not later than 3 weeks from assuming office.

The governor said that he had personally inquired from each of the 97 MLA's supporting Mrs Ramachandran whom he met individually yesterday. He said he is satisfied that all of them freely voted for her. He pointed out that the other faction led by the acting chief minister, Mr V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, could not prove its claim. The governor said that the Nedunchezhiyan faction has raised two main points, namely that they are the real AIADMK Party and that the meeting of their party's legislative wing convened by the senior-most deputy secretary, Mr Ragavanandam, was not valid.

The governor said that it is not for him to decide the validity or otherwise of any group. Regarding legality of the meeting of the MLA's convened by Mr Ragavanandam, he quoted the AIADMK Party rule to say that the senior-most deputy secretary can regulate business in the absence of the general secretary.

Mr Khurana also said that the group with 97 members has a better chance of commanding absolute majority in the assembly than a group with only 30 or 33 members. Mr Khurana has asked the interim chief minister, Mr Nedunchezhiyan, to tender his resignation. He has, however, asked him to continue till Mr Janaki Ramachandran assumes office. Mrs Ramachandran will be the first woman chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

Violence Continues in Gurkha Front Areas

1 Killed, 3 Injured in Attack

BK010930 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, one employee of the State Electricity Board was killed and three others seriously injured when they were attacked by a group of GNLF

[Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists at (Reling) in Sadar subdivision of Darjeeling District last night. The district magistrate told our correspondent this morning that three security men were also injured in the incident. Senior district officials have rushed to the area.

Policemen's Residences Attacked

BK020920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, GNLF activists attacked the residences of two additional SP's [Superintendents of Police] of Darjeeling last night. District Magistrate of Darjeeling told our correspondent that GNLF activists threw 15 to 20 bombs and fired a few rounds on the residences of those officers. The officers escaped unhurt. Security men on duty at their residences returned the fire as the miscreants fled.

Reports of violent incidents of GNLF activists have been received from other parts of Darjeeling. The activists ambushed a police patrol party in the Gorubathan police station area of Kalimpong subdivision. Security men returned the fire. No one was injured.

A complete bundh [strike] is being observed in Kalimpong town today also. All shops and business establishments, central and state government offices, and banks are closed. Vehicles are not plying. The call for the bundh has been given by the women's wing of the GNLF. Meanwhile, attendance in the state government offices in Darjeeling town has shown considerable improvement. All the state and central government offices in Kurseong town are functioning with normal attendance.

Bomb Factory Discovered

BK030900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, police have unearthed a bomb making factory in a house at Topkhana area in Kalimpong town last evening. Twenty-one bombs and a large quantity of bomb making material were seized from the house. The house owner was arrested under the Antiterrorist Act.

Police again conducted raids at GNLF hideouts in different parts of Darjeeling town yesterday and arrested 22 more GNLF activists.

Our AIR correspondent adds that a group of 40 top 50 masked GNLF miscreants set fire to a police water tankers in Kalimpong subdivision.

'Terrorists,' Police Clashes Continue in Punjab

9 Killed by 'Terrorists'

BK010752 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, nine persons were shot dead by terrorists in village Cheemapat under Beas police station in Amritsar District early this morning. According to an official spokesman, the terrorists forced their entry into the house of Mr Bhir Singh and opened indiscriminate fire killing nine inmates. The victims included four women and three children. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot and the security forces have launched a combing operation to apprehend tht culprits.

In another incident in Haryana the BJP legislator, Mr Shiv Prasad, was seriously injured and his servant killed when two unidentified assailants fired at them at Ambala city this morning. Mr Shiv Prasad was rushed to the postgraduate institute, Chandigarh and is being operated upon.

7 Reported Killed 1 Jan

BK020320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, seven persons, including two terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents in Amritsar District since last evening. According to an official spokesman, four persons were gunned down by terrorists in village Jude under Beas Police Station. In another incident in village Khalra three terrorists shot dead one person. In a third incident, two terrorists were killed in intergang fighting. The spokesman said the clash took place near the area where nine persons were earlier killed by terrorists.

2 'Terrorists,' 2 Police Killed

BK031602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Two terrorists and two CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] were killed in an encounter at Kaler village under (Vikivil) police station area of Amritsar District this afternoon. According to a police spokesman, the CRPF patrol party was fired upon killing a head constable and a constable. The CRPF returned the fire killing two of the assailants.

In two other shooting incidents, three persons, including two women, were shot dead by terrorists in the district last night. The third person was a farmer.

Congress-I Leader Killed 4 Jan

BK040759 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, the vice president of the state Congress-I and former minister, Mr Jagat Ram, was shot dead by terrorists in Phagwara town of Kapurthala

District this morning. According to an official spokesman, Mr Jagat Ram along with his friend was alighting from his car near his residence when two terrorists opened fire at them. While his friend died on the spot, Mr Jagat Ram, who was seriously injured, succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. The terrorists escaped on a scooter.

In another incident in Bheler village under Taran Taran police station of Amritsar District, terrorists forced their entry into a farmhouse and killed three members of a family.

'Extremists' Gun Down 3 in Tripura 1 Jan

BK011620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Three persons, including a woman, were shot dead by TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists at Baisi Munipara in South Tripura District today. The extremists equipped with automatic weapons had attacked two families. Details are awaited.

Kill 10 Persons 3 Jan

BK040303 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Ten persons were killed by TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists at (Chalita Bankur) under South Tripura District last night. Our correspondent understands that senior police officials and additional forces have rushed to the spot.

Center To Help Tripura With Insurgency Problem

BK040811 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said that the Center will cooperate with the Tripura government to tackle the insurgency problem in the state. Talking to newsmen in Agartala before his departure for New Delhi this morning, he assured the chief minister, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, that whatever additional security forces are required will be provided by the Center to deal with the TNV [Tripura National Volunteer] menace.

Mr Buta Singh said the insurgency situation in the state is very grave. He said the chief minister, who met him this morning, conferred with him on the gravity of the situation. The home minister said the Center and the state government officials will be meeting today itself to work out the measures to meet the situation.

On the coming assembly poll, Mr Buta Singh said adequate security forces will be provided by the Center for the smooth conduct of the polling. He advised all political parties to abide by the election code of conduct.

INDIAN EXPRESS Views USSR Asian Policy

BK251241 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Dec 87 p 6

[Article by A.G. Noorani: "India and Gorbachev's Asian Scheme"]

[Text] Neither the several agreements signed on November 25 on the conclusion of the Soviet Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov's visit to India, nor the Festivals staged in both countries can obscure the fact that today, a year after the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's much lauded trip to this country, India commands less importance in the USSR's scheme in Asia than is imagined. The year is notable rather for the Soviet Union's efforts for a rapprochement with China and improved relations with Pakistan and the United States.

Signs of moves in this direction were fairly evident even before Gorbachev's visit. The Soviet ambasador to Pakistan, Abdul-Rakhman ogly Vezirov, repeatedly reminds people that his country's policy of friendly relations with Pakistan was spelt out at Gorbachev's press conference in New Delhi on November 28, 1986. Conciliatory reference to Pakistan and persistent evasion of questions which sought to elicit support vis a vis China were the outstanding features of the press conference.

This did not prevent Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi from predicting in Parliament, four days later, that the visit would "have a sobering effect on all those who are watching us". If any effort is yet made to relate the articulate Soviet leader's expositions of his world view to India's interests, the result should sober even those to whom sobriety does not come naturally.

Mikhail Gorbachev's first priority is detente with the US. On its achievement depends the success of his domestic policies. Next comes China followed by Japan and Western Europe. India is certainly important but is less vital than these countries to the success of Gorbachev's foreign and domestic schemes.

A country's foreign policy springs from its image of the world order and the perception of its role in it. Gorbachev's was spelt out in an article published on September 17, 1987 entitled "Reality and Guarantees for a Secure World". It merits close analysis for its exposition of his "idea of a comprehensive system of international security". In the context of Indo-Soviet relations, we must ask ourselves, "Where does India figure in it?" Surely not as a regional power.

In the Gorbachev scheme "The Security Council's permanent members could be guarantors of regional security." It is not necessary to spell out the implications of the US, UK, France, China and the USSR acting as guarantors of this region's security. There was a time—on July 19, 1958—when Khrushchev wrote to Jawahar Lal Nehru, Eisenhower and other concerned leaders suggesting a summit meeting of the heads of government

of the US, USSR, UK, France and India along with Secretary-General of the UN to discuss the West Asian crisis. The contrast is glaring.

The Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Igor Rogachev, revealed in Moscow on October 18, after, his talks with the Chinese leaders in Beijing, that he had been "instructed by the Soviet leadership" to provide his hosts with "additional elaborations" of the Gorbachev article. "My Chinese comrades listened with great attention to these elaborations," he said. Whether India sought or was provided comparable enlightenment is not known.

Ears attuned to such music as "India comes first" and "India gets top priority" and "India is No. 1" cannot be very receptive to candour. These expressions were used by a former Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa in New Delhi on Fools' Day 1987.

China has responded cautiously to Gorbachev's overtures. If nonetheless, Sino-Soviet relations have improved considerably, it is because Soviet concessions have been substantial. And if PRAVDA published without critical comment the substance of the famous article by Xie Xiang, in the SHANGHAI WORLD ECONOMIC HERALD (SHIJIE JINGJI DAOBAO) on August 10, it was because it was in praise of the Soviet leadership's innovative and realistic approach to global issues.

Less noticed but more relevant to our interests is an article by Jia Fei published in BEIJING REVIEW on October 12, 1987, while Rogachev was still in the Chinese capital. Entitled, "A Look at Gorbachev's Asia-Pacific Policy" it notes that "Moscow publicly recognised US political and economic interests" in the region and has "paid greater attention to Japan's role" in it reckoning it as a "power of top importance".

It notes that the Soviet Union is "improving its relations with China and Japan and strengthening its ties with India". With equal objectivity, the article records that the Soviet Union "adopts a prudent attitude towards contradictions and frictions among China, Japan and India". Beijing has accepted Moscow's credentials as neutral in Sino-Indian issues.

While there is no such neutrality in Indo-Pak issues, the thrust of Soviet policy has been unmistakably towards conciliation with Pakistan. A week after Gorbachev's return to Moscow after his trip to India, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar was in Moscow "at the Soviet initiative". Mushahid Hussain, then editor of THE MUSLIM revealed (Dec 22), no doubt on the basis of thorough official briefing that "the Soviet side took pains in explaining to Sattar that their Pakistan policy was part of new broader goodwill thrust towards Asia and as part of this package of peace, they could not be selective in their overtures.

Sattar was told specifically that Mikhail Gorbachev very consciously and deliberately avoided any critical or hostile references to Pakistan during has recent India visit because he wanted to convey the right kind of message to Islamabad".

Soon after the Sattar visit, PRAVDA published, on January 5, 1987, an article on Indo-Soviet relations by none other than Academician Y. Primakov, Director of the influential World Economics and International Relations Institute and prime exponent of Gorbachev's foreign policy. Referring to the US supply of arms to Pakistan, he wrote, "Given such conditions, the Soviet Union realises the necessity of strengthening the defence potential of peace-loving India.

At the same time, as Mikhail Gorbachev stressed addressing a press conference in Delhi, the Soviet Union favours a peaceful political settlement of all Indian-Pakistani controversies. The Soviet Union does not want its relations with any country to harm any other countries. India fully understands and accepts that stance. That principle guides us, for instance, in our approach to normalisation and development of our relations with China. It is also the basis of our policy in respect to India."

In plain words, Indo-Soviet relations will not affect the growing Soviet-Pak relations. On November 12, Pakistan's Minister for Commerce, Planning and Development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, confirmed reports of a generous Soviet offer of economic assistance. The final estimates of the project involved might run into billions of dollars. A high-level Soviet delegation would visit Pakistan and he would go to Moscow to finalise the package, he disclosed.

The emphasis today is on the settlement of "regional conflict"—no doubt under Soviet auspices. Reminders of the Tashkent Conference in the Soviet press are significant. It is part of the Gorbachev plan on Asian Security "to initiate concrete discussion about reduction of ground forces" and on "confidence-building measures for Asia". The principal partner in these negotiations will be the US. Gorbachev said on July 3, "Let me make it clear once again. We emphatically propose to open talks with the US on nuclear armaments in the Asian and Pacific region". For the nuclear have-nots the prescription is strict nuclear celibacy.

Pakistan is condemned for its nuclear programme. But in the rhetoric of the devious, Leonid Zhegalov, Delhi correspondent of the Moscow journal NEW TIMES, administered this warning last April: "Though seemingly illogical, this is a thoroughly calculated move serving the long-term political interests of Washington and Islamabad. For if India decided on the 'nuclear option' as a means of reply, it would lose its position as a generally recognised leader of the non-aligned movement, its moral right to speak on behalf of the young states for nuclear disarmament, and raise doubts as to its role in

the Delhi Six, which is pressing for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, this would give Pakistan a sound pretext for continued military aid from the United States." The following month Dobrynin told us that Pakistan is miles away from the bomb.

Oddly enough while seeking a detente with the US himself, Gorbachev thought nothing of warning India of America's designs during the PM's Moscow visit last July. "The role of India, a major modern power, in world politics does not suit them". Judging by his article of September 17 it does not "suit" him either.

Of course, Rajiv Gandhi himself received a boost from Gorbachev during the visit amidst his troubles at home. "The crisis will blow over," Gorbachev confidently predicted. As a correspondent known for his loud support to the PM reported, "What they have done in this visit is to tell the world that they are behind Rajiv Gandhi". The issue is how supportive they are of India's interest.

Significant as are these actions and pronouncements, the trends and traits they reflect are vastly more so. India has made many a compromise at no small cost to its own prestige—on Afghanistan and Kampuchea, for instance—to keep Indo-Soviet relationship constantly in good repair. The relationship was forged in the context of India's security concerns which the Soviet Union seemed to share. But the record shows that it has felt itself free to press and revise its appreciations of India's security environment in the light of its own changing policies.

In 1982 Brezhnev warned Mrs Gandhi against concluding a no-war pact with Pakistan. For years India was treated to dark warnings of Chinese intentions. Now all that is gone. Last May, Dobrynin made light of India's fears of a Pakistani bomb saying it is many months away, and of Chinese military deployments as posing no threat to India. Even at the best of times, Soviet maps recognised the Chinese claims in the crucial Aksai Chin sector.

The time has surely come in the light of the changed conditions to ask how closely Indo-Soviet security interests converge today and, indeed, to have a clearer perception of our security concerns. The time has also come to shed delusions of grandeur which are fostered only to buttress the sagging image of the Government in the country.

"India is today not only strong but its voice is also very authoritative in world forums." Neither Jawahar Lal Nehru nor even Indira Gandhi in her boastful moments made this extravagant claim. Rajiv Gandhi made it on October 19, 1987 in the US—at a time when India has reduced itself to irrelevance on Afghanistan and Kampuchea, is deafeningly silent on the Gulf, and is denied recognition as a regional power in friend Gorbachev's security schemes.

Iran

Attempted Bombing of U.S. Base in Bahrain Noted

LD021855 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Strict security measures were taken at the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain and U.S. military installations on the island. According to a Central News Unit report, the measures were taken following the clear and open stance taken by the Muslim people of Bahrain against the decision of that Shaykhdom to grant more military installations to the United States and following speeches by numerous clergymen in the mosques.

In the meantime, according to a Central News Unit report quoting reliable sources, two Muslim combative Bahraini youths were arrested and interrogated for attempting to plant a bomb on the U.S. Air Force base in the (?Al-Jufayr) region in Bahrain. Also, a large number of Muslim youths in various parts of that country, especially the (?Bani Hamzah) region, were arrested and imprisoned by the Bahraini security forces on charges of religious activities based on Islamic teachings.

Meanwhile, the crown prince of the Bahraini regime issued a decree banning the presence of Bahraini Shi'ites in that country's Armed Forces. It should be pointed out that in line with the expansion of its cooperation with the United States the Bahraini regime has so far refrained from employing Shi'ites in sensitive centers, such as the Foreign and Finance Ministries.

In the meantime, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain has announced: The decree by the crown prince and commander of the Bahraini Armed Forces was issued after receiving security reports about the support of the Muslim people of Bahrain for the recent speeches exposing the participation of the Bahraini regime in the joint U.S.-Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] conspiracy in the bloody Mecca tragedy, for the rise in anti-U.S. feelings in Bahrain, and opposition to an increased U.S. presence on that island for the purpose of creating tension in the Persian Gulf.

Bahraini Forces, Muslims Clash

LD031136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, quoting the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, the town of (Bani Janbah) was once again the scene of a clash recently between patrol units of the Bahraini regime and Muslims. During the clash, which took place at midnight, a vehicle of the Bahraini Government forces was set alight.

For some time now, to counteract the actions of Muslim activists, the Bahraini regime has imposed a curfew in that area.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD011855 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1520 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Friday prayers sermons delivered by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 1 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted on Koranic verse, admonitions on piety]

Today I wish to speak about an issue to which I referred briefly in one of my earlier sermons. The point that I made was that although in an Islamic society the people have a great deal of freedom in economic actions and enjoy wide scope and although everyone is entitled to engage in economic endeavors yet side by side with these freedoms and rights of the people, the Islamic government and those ruling over an Islamic society also enjoy certain rights and freedoms—namely, the right to control, to supervise, and to administer, because if the Islamic ruler is denied this right and if the people are allowed to engage in economic endeavors without government supervision and without paying attention to government policies, this will certainly lead to rebellion, tyranny, injustice, and corruption in society. Moreover, this will give rise to a condition prevalent in capitalist countries in which steel, gold, and oil barons and the owners of big companies enjoy limitless power and wealth, while large sections of the people are deprived of the most basic amenities, such as homes, families, food, and clothing to protect them from the cold and heat. Even worse off are those Third World countries that follow their lead, including the decadent former regime of this country, the monarchical regime.

Were it not for the supervision of the Islamic government and for Islamic rule, Islamic laws on their own could not perform miracles. Laws are effective only when they are supported by a powerful hand, an Islamic government. Let me explain this matter a little further. Let me say this as an introduction: One of the means of establishing justice in an Islamic society is to establish an Islamic government, Islamic rule, or rather an Islamic executive organization, because sometimes when we talk of government, we are referring to the entire system which includes the legislative, the judicial, and executive branches. This is not what I mean here by an Islamic government.

In addition to the legislature and the judiciary which should prevent violations of the law, the executive branch also enjoys certain powers. The executive branch should have a permanent presence in society by means of this strength, this power, and this influence, within the limits of Islamic laws and Islamic principles. It should identify violations and stop them. It should prevent the oppressor from engaging in oppression. It should not allow rebellion, revolt, oppression, and violations. In brief, the Islamic government and the Islamic executive branch, which is the manifestation of Islamic rule, should have a complete presence in all the activities of society. This role of Islam can be established by referring to many proofs and many sources. No one doubts the validity of this principle.

In the economic field, also, the Islamic Republic enjoys the same rights and sovereignty. These are the rights enjoyed by the government in charge of an Islamic system. Here, also, in addition to the legislative branch which makes the laws, and the judicial branch which pursues offenders if it receives complaints or if laws are violated and which punishes the guilty, when a crime or an offence is committed, the Islamic government itself should also prevent violations through its permanent presence and through its continuous contact with various strata of the people. If this is done, economic freedom in society will not lead to injustice, revolt, inequality, class distinction, and violation of the rights and well-being of the large poor classes. However, if the executive officers do not have an open hand and if they do not possess the means of exercising power, some people will easily trample the laws. [passage omitted citing examples of Imam 'Ali's behavior among the people]

In any case, it is the duty of the Islamic government and of the Islamic executive branch to be present among the people, to discover covert offences even when there are no obvious offences. In cases where the judiciary is not informed, the executive should take direct action. When his holiness the imam of the ummah delegated the issue of governmental punishments to the government, some people asked why the judicial branch was not asked to do this. There is no doubt that this is the duty of the judiciary. However, when the judiciary is faced with certain shortcomings and when judicial brothers, despite all their efforts, cannot see to all the cases due to lack of manpower or lack of proper laws, one cannot leave the people to themselves, one cannot allow certain corrupt individuals who even create problems for their own colleagues—for the people of their own professions, and for the rest of the people, and who bring their own profession into disrepute—to do whatever they wish and create chaos in Islamic society. This cannot be done. The Islamic government should intervene. This is why the imam issued this decree, and this is one of the prerogatives of an Islamic ruler or velayat-e faqih [supreme jurisconsult: Khomeyni]. This is why he gave permission for governmental punishment. [passage omitted on excessive powers, citing examples from Imam 'Ali]

When in the existing order a number of people are trampled on and their rights violated, the government should use its powers and not allow the oppressed and the wronged to be trampled on. These are the powers which are given to an Islamic government, and Islamic rule and sovereignty should be implemented by controlling and supervising all activities.

In order to remove any doubts in the minds of certain people, it is appropriate for me to mention the religious judgment issued recently by the imam on issues connected with labor and the relationship between workers and employees, which are among the clearest Islamic teachings. Fortunately, after that judgment, the esteemed secretary of the Council of Guardians asked a question of the imam which clarified the matter further and which put an end to any attempt to misuse the imam's judgment. The imam graciously says that in return for the services which it renders, the government can impose binding conditions.

While under normal conditions and without government supervision employers can establish an unjust relationship with their workers, can increase the hours of work, cut the wages of the workers, deny workers necessary welfare facilities, and put pressure on the workers, the government can make it compulsory and binding upon the employers to observe a number of duties and binding injunctions which the government imposes on employers. This is one of the prerogatives of an Islamic government in return for the services which it provides for the employers. It reminds employers that they are using electricity, water, paved roads, jetties, ports, and different kinds of governmental services. The condition for using these facilities is that they in turn must provide some assistance to the workers, that they are bound by those conditions so that—and this is the essential point—the workers are not made victims of injustice, there is no favoritism in society, and so that this is not regarded as normal practice. All this is for the sake of defending the rights of the deprived. [passage omitted on upholding Islamic principles]

Of course, when we talk of accepted norms and principles in an Islamic society, we mean the religious judgment of velayat-e faqih, because in an Islamic society the religious yardstick of the system is the judgment of velayt-e faqih. The judgments of other jurisconsults are valid in personal and individual cases regarding themselves and their followers, if they have any followers. There is no argument about that. For instance, regarding prayers, fasting, pilgrimage, and other religious practices, or individual problems, if certain people follow a jurisconsult it does not matter if they follow his judgment. However, in the general affairs of the country, with regard to those things concerning general principles of the country and those issues which are the basis of legislation in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the only judgment which has any authority is the judgment of the imam. [shouts of slogans]

To sum up, I should say that the hands of an Islamic government and an Islamic ruler are open in all areas, including economic activities. Of course, when I say Islamic ruler I mean the imam and the velayat-e faqih, and he can delegate power which belongs to him to the executive branch or the legislative branch or to other individuals and groups in Islamic society. On the basis of the powers delegated by the imam, the Islamic government or the Islamic executive branch can practice its power inside an Islamic society to prevent oppression and to prevent revolt. This is the basis of an Islamic system, and God Almighty decrees: God commands you to act on the basis of justice and charity and to assist those close to you, and forbids you to do evil, engage in corruption, and revolt. [Koranic verse] [passage omitted describing the above verse] God's commands are not only limited to words. His prohibitions are not only limited to issuing guidance. God's commands and prohibitions are the basis of Islamic society and Islamic order. This cannot be achieved except through the powers of the Islamic Government and the powers of the executive branch of the Islamic government. [crowd cheers] [passage omitted on historical religious figure]

In today's second sermon, I will talk about the vital issue of the Islamic revolution in Palestine and international issues connected with the Islamic revolution and the order of the Islamic Republic, which itself is the most important. [passage omitted noting presence of various armed forces personnel, thanking them for their efforts]

About the Palestine issue: the unrest in occupied Palestine over the past 2 weeks is one of the most important events in the world and is the most important issue in the Muslim world today. However, many people do not want this label to be given to the incident. [passage omitted on historical background of Palestine issue]

Although Lebanese youths were also away from home and subjected to various blockades, sieges, and hostility, they stood up to Israel. They dealt blows to Israel and forced Israel's protectors—the United States, Britain, and France—to flee. They showed that resistance to Israel, with all that it has at its disposal and despite U.S. support, is possible. It became apparent that there is a powerful element confronting the arrogant oppressive machinery: Islamic faith and the strong Islamic revolutionary spirit. [chants]

However, the missing element is the uprising of the people in the occupied lands themselves, the Palestinians themselves. In the struggle against the usurper Zionist government, the movement of Lebanese youths was one from without. If the Palestinian refugees were to take up arms, the movement would still be a movement from without. It is necessary for the flame of the true struggle to start from within that corrupt system [Israel], and thank God this was done. Today, this flame has turned into a fire and is spreading.

For this reason, the world looks on the innocent movement of the Palestinian youths, men, and women in the occupied lands and attaches a great deal of value to it. Of course, I want to warn international organizations and Islamic governments and nations: These youths who are arrested and detained by the Zionists are in extreme

danger. The Zionists' record in their dealings with their prisoners is very shameful and black. [passage omitted comparing the Israelis to Nazis in prisoner treatment]

The Zionists instinctively and with all their being hate these Arabs, particularly now that there is an Islamic spirit among them. The lives of these youths in prison are in danger. International organizations should not remain silent. If the International Red Cross is really carrying out it declared duties and if human rights organizations are telling the truth, they should go to the occupied lands now and see to these youths and adolescents. [passage omitted]

Because I am dissappointed with many Islamic governments, I address the Islamic nations. Muslim nations, the young people in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, African countries, and all Islamic countries must corner those who are flirting with Zionist policies and trading with the Zionists. They must not allow our dear ones to be trampled on in Israel. [chants]

As for the diplomatic efforts by world arrogance against the Islamic Republic's system, as the whole world has seen the U.S. plan in the Persian Gulf has practically failed. The United States hoped that by being present in the Persian Gulf it could increase its strength in the region, weaken the Islamic Republic in the war, and improve its international reputation. The reverse of all three cases happened. U.S. influence in the region has become questionable. Before it arrived, it was an unknown quantity. People thought that the United States could do something. However, it came to the region and could not do anything. The regional reactionaries now realize that U.S. support is of no use to them and that the United States will not come to their aid when they need it. Today, many people have realized this. We hope that those who have not done so as yet will realize that the United States will do nothing to help. They must reconcile themselves to this reality. They must realize what is right and accept it.

They wanted to turn the war against the Islamic Republic. The opposite has happened. This gigantic movement of the people across the country has frightened the world. God knows what excitment these urban maneuvers all over the country, and immediately afterwards the systematic dispatch of forces to the war fronts have caused and what fear they have instilled in the world. This is the reality and it should instill fear.

This nation is sincere, self-sacrificing, and united. It will not succumb to force. It is unyielding. If it is subjected to pressure, its resistance increases. [chants]

There are instances which truly dazzle one, despite 9 years of testing the public spirit, concerning the degree to which the nation accepts sacrifices and selflessness. The issue of financial jihad has reverbrated through the society like a storm in our own hearts. [passage omitted praising the nation, donations] We will deliver such blows to the enemy that all supporters of the Saddamite regime will lose hope. [cheers] As for international dignity, the United States cannot achieve anything. None of its intentions arising from its presence in the Persian Gulf have been realized.

Now, following immense and tiring efforts by the U.S. Administration, it is talking of an economic and arms embargo, as well as imposing an arms blockade. They hope that they can achieve their objectives. I will point out that an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic is neither possible nor useful. Even if they do the impossible, nothing will be achieved. First, we provide the bulk of our armaments needs domestically. We did not do so earlier, but the same pressures that were brought to bear prompted us to think of domestic sources. Today, however, by the grace of the Creator, we have achieved this status mainly by using the pressures of the enemy to achieve near self-sufficiency as far as ammunition and weapons are concerned.

Second, despite the arms embargo that has de facto been imposed on us, we will satisfy our needs from various parts of the world. You know where you stand in the world and you realize the corruption of your own administrations. The same people who are talking about the arms embargo were themselves disgraced in the course of the McFarlane fiasco. The whole world realized this and now this is how you are perceived. How can you conduct an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic? We will satisfy our needs despite you and your almost total blockade and despite your making the blockade official. We will not wait for you. Furthermore, on the day that the half-baked idea proposed by some witless, greedy, and simple politicians, to impose a sea blockade on the Islamic Republic is put into effect in the Persian Gulf, I must let the whole world know—the states supporting arrogance and repression and the states opposing the oppressed—that the Persian Gulf will be blockaded not just for us, but all regional states. [cheers]

If it is in the interest of the arrogant powers that this part of the Persian Gulf be engulfed in flames, then let it be so in the name of God. We will not venture to play with fire but we are not afraid of events (?of this sort). They are more afraid than we are. They will suffer more damage. Relying on the Almighty and the will and power of the nation, we have paths to follow. We are not insisting that this situation occurs. We do not want to light fires, but their insistance on playing with fire will cause more damage to them than to us. We have repeatedly announced that they should know that the Persian Gulf will not be closed only to us.

We hope that the world powers become wise, particularly those in charge of the Security Council, who effectively control it. They should comprehend the facts better than before. Our nation is not one that yields to pressures. I hope that the Creator of the universe will grant our

nation his blessings and compassion and disappoint the enemies as they have been disappointed in all theaters of confrontation with the Islamic Republic. [Koranic verse omitted]

Musavi Addresses Cabinet on War Effort

LD031444 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Excerpt] We start our news with a report on the joint session of the Cabinet and governors general from all over the country.

Referring to the importance of the presence of the people on the country's political scene, Prime Minister Musavi said at the session: The factor which has dealt the main blow to the enemy's conspiracies last year is the widespread mobilization of our people during the past few months. With their glorious maneuvers the people demonstrated their resolve to resist to the last stand, the last man, and the last drop of their blood. Today, we see the effects of this blessed popular mobilization on the world and world affairs. At the same time, this readiness showed that we are capable of confronting future enemy plots.

He added: Despite the present calm, our enemies will continue to conspire in the future. We must not overlook the coordination and secret actions of world arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, as they have demonstrated in their general mobilization, the people should maintain their morale in the face of international pressure.

He stressed: Of course, our strong military moves on the war fronts will foil these plots. We declare to our fighters on the fronts that the government will support the war with all its might and steadfastness. With the people's readiness and with the continuous deployments, the fighters of Islam will deal a fundamental blow to the enemies of Islam.

Referring to the arrogant plots to isolate the Islamic Republic in international circles, the prime minister stressed: Our foreign policy must actively continue in line with military advances.

Summarizing world events in connection with the progress of the Islamic Revolution this year, he said: This year we have confronted global plots satisfactorily, and overcome them. The reason for our success in dealing with these plots was the uncompromising spirit of the leadership and the firm resolve and resistance of the people and the government. Our people's struggle overcame the Persian Gulf tumult, the Security Council's hue and cry, the mobilization and coordination of world arrogance and reactionary regimes, and the propaganda of the imperialist media.

The prime minister said: This year, our executive sector and the people showed great sacrifice in the face of enemy plots. With perseverance and ingenuity they were able to stand on their own feet.

The prime minister called the people's faith and the timing and experience of managers effective factors in the great popular resistance this year. Thanking all the country's executive sectors for combating problems, he said: Ministers, governors general and directors general, while noting the importance of providing supplies to the public, must use all their facilities to give all-round support to the war effort. They must confront the natural problems arising from plots hatched by the enemies of the Islamic Revolution with perseverance and ingenuity.

Regarding the plan to combat price rises, Mr Musavi said: This plan, which will be implemented nationwide, has so far made good progress. One should note that if the decree of the imam of the ummah and the government's effort had failed to carry out this plan, we could not have controlled prices, and the deprived classes would have faced many problems. He added: This plan will foil many plots hatched by counterrevolutionaries and foreign incitements to divert public attention.

He stressed the sensitivity of the task of governors general to implement the plan to combat price rises. He said: Our future course of action will decisively control prices, prevent hoarding, and enforce the government's corporal punishment policy in order to protect the deprived and the oppressed. Moreover, the executive organs must try to remove the plan's shortcomings and make their methods more appropriate.

Referring to weak propaganda on this issue so far, the prime minister stressed: It is necessary for the public to be aware of the positive effects of the plan at each stage. The experiences of each province should be transferred to others as quickly as possible and the repetition of shortages should be prevented.

The government's corporal punishment policy is solely for the protection of the deprived and for the creation of social reform. The government will deal severely with any misuse of the plan.

The prime minister called on governors general all over the country to make preparations so that the elections are held in a better manner and to create a healthy, impartial, peaceful, and calm atmosphere for the people and the candidates and to combat any unwarranted interference in the elections.

He expressed the hope that governors general, governors, and government political directors would deal with the problem wisely and firmly and strive that in the upcoming elections the people would be able to elect their desired candidates, and the government would have the honor of enjoying public confidence, as in previous

elections. No doubt the presence of the Friday imams and the clergy will give moral support to government political directors to carry out this plan.

Finally, referring to the importance of the imam's message on the denunciation of pagans, the prime minister called on governors general all over the country, while discussing the fundamental points of the message during their special committees, to find ways of implementing the policies contained in the imam's message, and to carry them out in the major executive policy-making process. [passage omitted]

Foreign Broadcasts on Embargo, CW Assailed

LD011157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you, dear listeners. We begin this week's review of foreign radio broadcasts. [passage omitted] The Security Council has increased its efforts in line with the growing concern over the fate of Saddam. The arrogant governments, Saddam's supporters, in order to halt the possibility of any major development on the battlefronts, are trying to exert military and political pressure on Iran. The most obvious plan raised during the past several months, after the signing of Security Council Resolution No 598, is to impose an arms embargo against Iran. The resolution includes 10 articles and, if it were implemented, Iran would gain nothing. Naturally, the objective of the people who compiled it was to save the aggressive Iraqi regime. The resolution demands that the Iranian forces give up their military gains unconditionally, return Iraqi POW's, lay down their arms, and not expect that Saddam be identified as the aggressor.

It is quite obvious that such a resolution has no value and is unquestionably rejected by the Muslim nation of Iran. The Western or Eastern propagandists, without mentioning the contents of the resolution, are promoting it as a resolution for peace. They interpret Iran's rejection as a warmongering attitude. [passage omitted]

The foreign radios, while refusing to discuss details of the resolution, are threatening the Muslim people of Iran with an arms embargo and are now reporting that this is going to happen in the near future. [passage omitted]

The interesting point is the collusion between the two superpowers on ways of imposing the embargo. At a time when the Kremlin has evaded an agreement about this embargo for various reasons, it is said that that country has agreed to go along with the United States and Britain in imposing an arms embargo against Iran, should the West accede to the previous proposal of allowing UN forces, which naturally would also include Soviet forces, to replace the Western forces in the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, discussions are continuing on ways to implement the embargo. Without proper control, it would not be effective and, should the Security Council wish to control weapon imports to our country, other problems would rise. For instance, any attack on our country's ships or ports would result in Iranian retaliatory measures in the Persian Gulf. Meanwhile, the land routes are open for such transportation. If they were to include the land borders in this embargo, then the UN forces, that is, the British and U.S. forces, would succeed in being deployed in Afghanistan or on the Soviet borders. In any case, these difficulties and Iran's rapid move toward military self-sufficiency have made it doubtful whether the plan of Saddam's arrogant supporters would succeed in its arms embargo against Iran.

Last week, foreign radios spread a lie that our country's prime minister, Mr Musavi, in his budget speech to the Islamic Majlis, announced that Iran has started manufacturing chemical weapons. The foreign radios rapidly magnified this fabricated news and broadcast it across the world. The state-controlled BBC radio said: [recorded passage indistinct] As you heard, the state-controlled BBC radio claims that Iran has begun manufacturing chemical weapons. The state-controlled Voice of America, broadcasting similar news, claimed that the Iranian prime minister admitted to manufacturing chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

The foreign radios, which fabricated their analysis of the prime minister's speech, used the same lie as a base for other hostile propaganda. The state-controlled BBC radio claimed that Iran has placed chemical weapons at the disposal of Libya in exchange for a certain type of missile.

Please listen: [Begin recording] A report in the London daily INDEPENDENT says that Iran has agreed to place chemical weapons at the disposal of Libya in exchange for receiving advanced Soviet-made Scud-B missiles from Libya. The INDEPENDENT adds that Al-Qadhdhafi plans to use these chemical weapons in Chad and Iran will deploy the Scud-B missiles against Iraq. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Such fabrications by foreign radios demonstrate the sinister nature of these radios, which use a trumped up report as a basis for fabricating more news.

Ultimately, either now or in future, they might use all these lies and fabricated news items as the main basis of their analyses and commentaries for public consumption. In any case, these tricks and such fabricated propaganda are nothing new to the Muslim nation of Iran. Moreover, foreign radios have never had any credibility or reputation among this heroic and struggling people.

Khomeyni Receives Families of War Victims

LD041056 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jan 87

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Fatima, peace be upon her, the dear daughter of the Holy Prophet, families of

martyrs, MIA's, POW's, and the disabled from Mashhad and Esfarayen in Khorasan Province, and groups of families of martyrs, MIA's and POW's from Mahallat in the Central Province, were received by Imam Khomeyni this morning. At this meeting, the imam's representative and the supervisor of the Shahid Foundation of the Islamic Revolution, and Majlis Deputy Speaker Karrubi delivered a speech. [passage omitted]

At the end of this meeting, Imam Khomeyni responded to expressions of emotion from the audience.

Mohtashemi, Governors Send Letter to Khomeyni

LD031301 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] The interior minister and governors general throughout the country have sent a letter to the imam of the ummah thanking him for the special attention he has given to the serving government. They announced their readiness to use all the facilities at their disposal to serve the oppressed and the deprived, and to ceaselessly and continually follow the pricing program and government's corporal punishment scheme until further success is achieved.

The letter refers to plots and conspiracies hatched by the arrogant powers in various ways, including placing economic pressure on the Iranian people, increasing rates, and the imam's permission allowing the government to supervise the pricing of goods. [sentence as heard] The letter also emphasized that the permission granted by the imam has eliminated vagueness and clarified certain issues, thus showing a direct path to be followed.

Another part of this letter, signed by Interior Minister Mohtashemi and governors general from throughout the country, refers to the results of the pricing program. It notes that prices for essential goods needed by the public have either been reduced or established at their present rate. All governors general and governors will be at the service of this important program, and their morale is high.

Jerusalem Committee Session Called 'Conspiracy'

LD031737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] The statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country about the holding of an extraordinary session of the foreign ministers, members of the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization, is our first news report which you now hear:

Following the request from the shah of Morocco, as the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization, for the Islamic Republic of Iran to take part in the extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of that committee in connection with the recent uprising of the people in occupied Palestine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country issued a statement which said:

Now, when the Muslim Palestinian people, inspired by sublime Islamic teachings, have unfurled the banner of struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem in order to achieve their own legitimate rights and when, contrary to all international norms and principles, they continue to be subjected to suppression, torture, massacre, and mass arrests, the Islamic nations expect the Islamic Conference Organization—an organization formed to liberate Holy Jerusalem—to extend a helping hand toward the Palestinian people and to assist the strugglers along the path of Islam and freedom with its practical help. However, the proposal to hold an extraordinary session of the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization by the person who acted as host to the leaders of international Zionism and the officials of the usurping regime occupying Jerusalem is not only not regarded as a practical step toward the liberation of Palestine, but on the contrary, under present conditions it can be regarded as a sign of a deep and extensive conspiracy. The Muslim Palestinian nation and other Muslims strugglers of the region should be vigilant regarding these conspiracies.

This statement also stresses: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the members of the Jerusalem Committee, once again calls for a change in the present chairman of that committee and believes that practical and coordinated actions of Islamic countries in supporting the uprising of the Palestinian Muslims are the only way to liberate noble Jerusalem from the claws of the occupying Zionists.

Velayati Discusses USSR, Libya on TV Talk

LD021915 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic considers as 'a positive step' the proposal to hold a conference of Iran and the six-member (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (P) (GCC), in line with Iran's declared policies concerning good neighbourliness.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati made the above remarks in a round-table talk on Iranian T.V. Thursday night, adding that the idea was first mooted by his Omani counterpart Yusuf ibn Al-Alawi 'Abdallah.

"Principally, Iran considers it (the plan) as a positive step," Velayati said noting "but it is necessary that the gathering as well as the framework of the negotiations be agreed in advance."

Asked if closer relations between Tehran and Moscow did not contradict the Islamic Republic's 'neither East nor West' policy, Velayati replied the objective of the slogan is the negation of alien domination and not

snapping of communication. Nowadays, he added, negating political relations with other countries means negating identity of the countries.

"If we want to inform the world of our opinions, we should communicate with the world," he said, stressing that communication should be such as not to cause interference in the internal affairs of others countries nor domination.

Elsewhere in his speech, adverting to a BBC report alleging that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said 'if Iran wants to act as a colonialist power in the Persian Gulf, Libya will war against it', the minister said Western media's approaches are in fact a part of their psychological war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"My recent visit to Tripoli was undoubtedly one of the most successful visits," he said, referring to his last month's visit and holding of talks with Libyan leaders.

He noted that Iran and Libya issued a joint statement supporting the Palestinian Muslims' uprising till the final victory, at a time when most of the Muslim countries did not dare to express their views on the Zionist massacre of Palestinians, while others expressed tame statements in mild tones cautious of not annoying the U.S. and Israel.

Besides, he went on, it was decided for the first time that Tehran-Tripoli join economic commission be formed.

Velayati said the other achievements of his visit was the historic formation of a multilateral session to counter the compromising acts of reactionary Arab leaders concerning the occupied Palestine.

Therefore, he continued, if the BBC report is supposedly right, Col. al-Qadhdhafi's view is a serious answer to countries which claim that Iran is trying to dominate small regional countries. The response, he added, could be considered as a positive stance of Libya which believes Iran is never seeking domination.

Also speaking at the interview was Foreign Ministry Director General for Afro-Arab countries Hoseyn Lavasani who said "We have no objection to meet officials of (P) GCC states, if the meetings would not be to the detriment of the principal stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

IRNA Cites Oil Minister on OPEC Prices

LD021152 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazdeh said here today that he foresees an early increase in oil prices.

Aqazadeh said prices which were falling immediately after an agreement between member countries of the organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Geneva last month, have continuously recovered during the past two weeks. He reminded that the only strategy capable of safeguarding the interests of OPEC members is to observe assigned production quotas.

The Iranian oil minister dismissed the likelihood of a meeting of OPEC's extraordinary session at a near future, commenting that such a meeting would depend on the operation of OPEC member states.

Asked to comment on a rumoured decline in Japan's oil purchases from Iran, Aqazadeh said he has not yet received any report to that effect. He noted, however, that an Iranian delegation is to visit Tokyo in another two weeks after which, he said, details of the question would be known.

Aqazadeh also denied unofficial reports on Iran's oil exports, reaffirming that since the start of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 1987) Iran's oil ministry has abided by its (export) commitments to the Majlis (the Iranian parliament).

Montazeri Receives Red Crescent Officials 1 Jan

LD021205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the secretary general of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Organization, accompanied by the representative of the imam and officials of Red Crescent organizations throughout the country, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emami Kashani, the directors general of most ministries, and a number of members of Esfahan's Reconstruction Jihad yesterday met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom.

While praising the acceptance of responsibility by those present and their service to Islam, the revolution, and the deprived, the deputy leader said: My brothers must be aware of the blessing of God has bestowed upon them in giving them the ability to serve the deprived and those who face problems. They must realize that solving the problems and worries of the needy and serving the deprived is one of the best ways of serving God.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed: It might well be the case that the problems of an afflicted Muslim can be solved with one signature. You gentlemen must try to prevent people from being kept waiting to see them. Work must not be passed from person to person. If the people need guidance, you gentlemen must not be sparing or negligent.

The deputy leader also emphasized the broadening of the level of help offered by the Red Crescent to prisoners.

Italian Envoy to Tehran Presents Credentials

AU021727 Rome ANSA in English 1229 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] (ANSA) Tehran, January 2—Italy's new ambassador to Iran, Vittorio Amadeo Farielli, today presented his credentials at the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry here.

During the presentation ceremony the two sides confirmed the good relations that exist between Itay and Iran and voiced their wish to improve and broaden them further.

Khamene'i, Belgian Envoy Discuss Expanding Ties

LD031747 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA—Belgium's new Ambassador to Iran Raymond Shrigvers met President 'Ali Khamene'i and presented his credentials here Sunday.

The Belgian ambassador announced his country's keen interest to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In reply, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i expressing satisfaction with the growing trend of Tehran-Brussels relations stressed on the need for broadening ties in the political and economic fields.

"The days and years constitute an outstanding era in our history," said the president.

Meanwhile, the Belgian and New Zealand Ambassadors here met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and submitted a copy of their credentials, Saturday.

Envoy to Lebanon Opens Aid Center in Beirut

NC021218 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Beirut has opened the Islamic Republic of Iran's aid center in Beirut. During the opening ceremonies he received the first consignment of aid from the Islamic Republic to low- income Muslim families in Lebanon.

Defense Industries' Plane To Be Deployed 'Soon'

LD021617 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—The first Iranian-made warplane will be shortly deployed at the operational regions, disclosed Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust, in the southern port city of Bandar-e 'Abbas Thursday.

Rafiqdust speaking to the Central News Bureau (CNB), also said that IRGC defence industries making notable progress have reached self-sufficiency in producing military hardware. IRGC will reach self-sufficiency in the manufacture of artillery pieces next year, he added.

Three types of aircraft were tested during Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's visit to IRGC aviation industries, disclosed Rafiqdust adding, that the first entirely Iranian made plane will be flown in the near future.

The IRGC minister thanking the people for their dedication said popular forces will be sent to the fronts when needed, according to the time-table drawn. However all such forces will remain on alert at their centers, he added.

Official on Deployment of 'Pilotless Planes'

LD031424 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA—Iran will deploy pilotless planes in the Persian Gulf to counter U.S. threats of using such planes in the region, according to an official of the air force division of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) here Sunday.

In an interview with the Persian daily KEYHAN today the official felt confident that the IRGC air force which he said enjoys high capabilities can foil the operations of the U.S. pilotless planes in the Persian Gulf.

A number of Iranian-made remote-control planes were successfully used in reconnoitering Iraqi positions in a southern war theater during 1985, the paper said.

Basij Head Says Forces Can Break Any Blockade

LD031018 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA—Head of the Basij (paramilitary) forces in Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani said here today that as long as Pentagon promotes secret arms sales to other countries for private interests the arms embargo against Iran will not make the Iranian Government compromise with Baghdad. He said whatever future developments, the Iranian Government will not allow the U.S. to push Iran to a compromise with the Iraqi Government even though it should try to block Iran's waterways.

The Iranian official said Washington's proposition to exercise a naval blockade of Iran is not really a scheme for peace but rather 'a high-risk venture already tested with disappointing results in other parts of the world.'

The Hojjat ol-Eslam threatened that the Iranian armed forces supported by basij paramilitary troops are well capable of breaking any naval blockade in Iran's southern waters. He reminded that Iran has many friends

throughout the world, that it is geographically well-privileged, and that its access to her neighbours makes her 'easily continue to live without getting drowned.'

Rahmani said Washington has brought up the question in a bid to block arms flow to Iran from the Eastern block countries apparently little knowing that those countries are only one of the many sources of Iran's arms supply.

The Basij official was speaking to IRNA in an interview Sunday.

Tehran Notes Increased Saudi Aid to Iraq

LD012118 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The regime ruling over Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] has increased its military support for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. One of the Pakistani nationals who has recently returned from Jeddah said: Recently, the Al Sa'ud regime, in order to increase its military support for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, has allocated a considerable percentage of its commercial activities in Al-Qa.imah and Yanbu' ports on the Red Sea to this matter.

According to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY from Islamabad, columns of military trucks and trailers load various types of military ammunitions and weapons, as well as other necessary goods for the Iraqi regime from the ports of Hijaz and send them to Iraq. Based on these statements, the regime ruling over Hijaz in line with its military support for the Iraqi regime has also allocated some of its airports to this matter, so much so that the continuous arrival and departure of cargo planes belonging to the Iraqi regime in the international airport of Jeddah has been observed.

Tehran Cites AP on Attack on Maltese Tanker

LD021905 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] According to an AP report, sea rescue workers reported that the Maltese oil tanker "Alga," with a capacity of 16,134 tons, was hit by missiles fired from gunboats late on Friday in the Persian Gulf.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,067

LD311634 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 12 cargo ships and oil and gas tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The 3067th Joint Staff communique announcing the above, reported here Thursday that the Islamic Republic's airforce successfully carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in line with international regulations Wednesday, providing aircover for the naval gunboats.

In the western fronts Iran's Muslim combatants smashed an Iraqi offensive in Sumar, early Wednesday, killing at least 15 enemy soldiers and forcing the attacking troops to flee. A large amount of enemy military equipment was also destroyed in the crushed assault.

Elsewhere in the same fronts, heavy Iranian artillery fire inflicted losses on an Iraqi motor pool and suppressed three enemy patrol convoys in Helaleh. Enemy engineering operations were also halted by Iranian artillery fire in Nahr 'Anbar.

At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed and vast parts of enemy fortifications set ablaze in a southern war theater in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants Wednesday.

Iranian gendarmerie forces continued their battles with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts Wednesday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on enemy forces.

In the southern fronts, Iranian artillery fire checked reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Zobeydah, Sharhani, west of Jofeyr and east of Basra, and movement of enemy motorized columns in Tib and Zobeydah Wednesday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,068

LD011654 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—Iranian naval forces intercepted and searched 20 cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday, but allowed them to sail, the 3068th Joint Staff Communique reported here today.

The communique said Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi strongholds and troop concentrations throughout the war fronts destroyed several enemy bunkers, killing and wounding a group of Iraqi soldiers. Timely artillery fire of the Muslim combatants also forced a group of Iraqi troops to flee when they attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in a northwestern theater.

Enemy forces sustained heavy casualties and losses as their motorized movements in Zurbatiyah and Badra regions came under artillery fire of the Iranian combatants, Iraqi engineering activities in Yebis and Eynkhosh as well as relocation activities of their tanks in Bayat region were suppressed.

Iranian gendarmerie forces destroyed several Iraqi group bunkers and inflicted some casualties and losses on the enemy in parts of the western and southern fronts, said the communique.

Communique No 3069

LD021600 Tehran IRNA in English 1544 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 2, IRNA—Iranian Navy intercepted and inspected 13 cargo vessels and oil tankers in the the Strait of Hormuz Friday but permitted them to continue voyage after making sure they were not carrying any Iraq-bound cargo.

Joint Staff Communique number 3069 announcing the above here Saturday said that Iran's artillery fire pounded Iraqi positions in northwestern, western and southern fronts over the past 24 hours.

The Muslim combatants' patrol units checked the movement of Iraqi forces Friday and destroyed several group bunkers and watch posts, two machine gun emplacements, a munitions dump and a command jeep, killing or wounding scores of enemy forces.

The gendarmerie forces also shelled Iraqi positions yesterday disrupting their engineering activities, destroying six group bunkers, a munitions dump and a tank, and killing or injuring several Iraqi soldiers.

Communique No 3,070

LD031558 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 3, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Irbil Province, northern Iraq, at 13:00 hours local time (09:30 GMT) Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy forces. The fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing mission.

The 3070th Joint Staff communique announcing the above, reported here Sunday that the Islamic Republic Air Force successfully carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Saturday, provided air cover for the navy, and reconnoitered positions of foreign vessels.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's naval gunboats reconnoitered 28 cargo ships and oil tankers Saturday but found no suspicious cases regarding shipment of cargo for Iraq.

Iran's Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions throughout the battlefields Saturday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying vast parts of their fortifications.

Two Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate iranian positions in Helaleh and Kani-Sheykh, western sector, Saturday sustained several casualties and were forced to flee by the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

In Chazabeh, southern sector, Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from repairing their barbed-wire fences Saturday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying two vehicles of theirs.

Several Iraqi soldiers were also killed or wounded and seven enemy gun emplacements destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Saturday.

Yesterday, Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi motorized columns moving on Jassan-Badrah and Badrah-Zurbatiyah axes, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

U.S. Bilateral View of Nuclear Issues Assailed

BK311458 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Dec 87 p 7

[Editorial: "U.S. Aid and Pakistan's Options"]

[Text] The report that the American Senate and House of Representatives have cleared Pakistan's 4.02-billion-dollar aid package will be well received in this country. This is not so much because there is a broad national consensus on the primacy of US economic and military aid in the context of Pakistan's economic development and security concerns as such. The real reason is the principle involved that made it so important for Pakistan that aid should be restored. The American Congress had voted a 105-day suspension of aid in August on a suspicion that the Pakistan Government was involved in the attempted import of some strategic nuclear material from the US by a Canadian of Pakistani origin. Islamabad's atomic energy programme had become suspect in the American eyes because of this incident. By voting for the aid package now, Congress has cleared Pakistan of the charges levelled against it in the nuclear proliferation context. Moreover, some of the one-sided proposals being considered earlier in the Senate and the House committees—these would have required Pakistan to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection—have now been dropped. This vindicates Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme which, as the Government has repeatedly affirmed, has no military dimension. But by dropping the Appropriations Committee's recommendation that a regional approach be adopted towards non-proliferation, the Senate has once again confirmed its policy of taking a bilateral view of nuclear issues in its dealings with the countries of South Asia. By not equating India and Pakistan in matters of aid and international safeguards for nuclear facilities, the latest Senate action in effect perpetuates the discriminatory approach adopted by the US towards the nuclear policies of Pakistan and India. This is palpably unfair. While aspersions have been cast on Pakistan and moves have been suggested requiring Islamabad to prove its nuclear innocence, others on the atomic threshold such as India, South Africa, Israel and Brazil, to name only a few, have

received American assistance without any restrictions or a qualification of good conduct. How is it, one wonders, that these favoured ones are treated differently and have not been asked to place their nuclear facilities under international safeguards? They have enjoyed extraordinary freedom in planning and implementing their nuclear programmes without any checks being demanded. There is hardly any surprise then if Pakistan has come to resent this dichotomy in the US approach.

Now that aid is to be restored, it is important that Pakistan immediately undertake contingency planning to prepare for a possible cessation of American aid once again in the future. This eventuality cannot be ruled out. The Senate resolution provides for a six-year waiver to the Symington Amendment in Pakistan's case. The House of Representatives resolution recommends a two-year waiver. Additionally, the American President is required to certify to congress that Pakistan is not producing highly enriched uranium or separated plutonium. How the disparate provisions of the two Bills are going to be integrated into the final act of legislation will determine its operational effect. But it is evident that Pakistan's nuclear programme can at any time be made the pretext for suspension of aid. Moreover, Senators and Congressmen have unequivocally linked aid to Pakistan with the situation in Afghanistan. They have made it clear that it is in America's interest that Pakistan is given aid to enable it to continue to play its role vis-a-vis the resistance in Afghanistan. We should be prepared for a situation when American aid to Pakistan could be cut off because of a qualitative change in the geostrategic environment of the region.

It would be wiser for Islamabad to plan for such an eventuality now that the resumption of aid has lifted the veil of uncertainty. Our policy planners can now freely explore several options without feeling weighed down by any severe constraint. Those who put on a brave face when aid is suspended and declare that Pakistan can survive without American assistance would do well to concentrate on our economic realities. Pakistan's debt burden has reached such enormous proportions that debt servicing alone consumes as much as 88 percent of the aid inflow. In the case of the United States, net transfer from the other side amounts to even less than 12 percent. If aid is halted, the country will lose not only this net inflow but will be required to pay massive amounts towards debt servicing from its own resources, assuming that it does not plan to default. Pakistan's dependence on foreign aid is such that in 1986-87 nearly 33 percent of its budget deficit was met by external financing. Sound economic planning demands that the Government work out a strategy which will progressively reduce dependence on foreign aid, especially American assistance. We should not underrate the urgency of this, for otherwise our foreign policy and energy options will remain unacceptably tied to the very many restraints and limitations imposed by aid-givers, the US or any other. Besides, is it prudent or sensible to overlook the long-term prospects of an economy kept going by heavy doses of borrowed money?

Editorial Favors Economic Cooperation With USSR

BK311454 Karachi DAWN in English
17 Dec 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Soviet Economic Assistance"]

[Text] Thee Federal Planning and Development Minister's recent statement that Pakistan is serious about developing close economic cooperation with the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries is reassuring. This will help diversify our economic relations with foreign countries. Some time back the Soviet Trade Representative told a gathering of our top industrialists and businessmen in Karachi that his country was willing to extend all possible economic assistance, including transfer of technology, to Pakistan for its industrial development, in both public and private sectors. Although progress in economic and industrial collaboration between the two countries has been very slow, the completion of Pakistan Steel complex, the biggest industrial undertaking in the country, the installation of power stations with Soviet assistance and help in oil and gas exploration are noteworthy examples of Pakistan-Soviet cooperation. The offers of economic assistance have been repeated on more than one occasion at public forums by the Soviet Ambassador in Pakistan. But it is rather strange that there has been no adequate response to these offers, specially when the previous experience in such collaboration has been quite satisfactory in respect of favourable terms of credit and transfer of technology.

It is common knowledge that in the capitalist system of market economy, no country wants [to] part with basic know-how and technology. Pakistan has failed to persuade foreign partners in industrial collaboration to transfer technology. They are interested in selling machinery, equipment, spares and so on but contrive to keep technological secrets to themselves. Therefore, it is advisable to explore all avenues for obtaining technology, so that we can develop an adequate base of heavy industry and sophisticated manufactures. The Soviet Union and other Socialist countries are willing to help Pakistan and other Third World countries in this respect. It is only a lack of political will which often prevents the fruition of some of these good possibilities. If permanent dependence on foreign aid with its parasitic syndrome political and other constraints has to be reduced and eliminated eventually, then the Soviet offers of economic and technical aid should be considered seriously. An agreement recently reached in Moscow between the national trade and industry Chambers of the Soviet Union and Pakistan should provide a useful framework for closer collaboration in industry, trade and technical fields between the two countries.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Members, Muslims Clash in Kathankudy

BK311632 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the situation took a serious turn today at Kathankudy, south of the eastern town of Batticaloa, following yesterday's clashes between the

LTTE and some Muslims. While a spokesman of the Indian High Commission in Colombo confirmed 7 deaths, unconfirmed reports of 13 other deaths have been received. Residents of the area put the death toll much higher. They claimed that the LTTE men had fired with automatic weapons on the Muslim mob killing and injuring an unspecified number of people. Reports of burning of shops and the rice mills in the area have also come in.

Giving an account of the incidents, the High Commission spokesman said that LTTE had earlier given notice to the Muslims to extort money from them. But the Muslims at a meeting last week had decided not to pay. The Muslim group, named Jihad, killed one LTTE man yesterday. Following this 5 Muslims and 1 Tamil were killed in clashes, 11 were wounded. The Peacekeeping Force [PKF] rushed two platoons to Kathankudy yesterday.

A Sri Lankan Air Force plane was fired upon and damaged while it was about to land at Batticaloa. However, there were no casualties. Meanwhile, the trial run of a train between Vavuniya and Chavakachcheri in Jaffna peninsula was successfully completed today by the PKF and local authorities.

The AIR correspondent, Perumal, reporting from Jaffna says that severely damaged tracks on the route were repaired by the engineering brigade of the PKF.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that PKF have recovered more arms and ammunition in the Jaffna peninsula. Sixty-eight LTTE cadres have surrendered to the PKF during the past few days. The spokesman also said that LTTE had stolen some uniforms of the PKF and they may indulge in some untoward incidents to malign the Peacekeeping Force.

Indian Spokesman Deplores Incident

BK011712 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] The Peacekeeping Force has seized 56 weapons from the LTTE in northern Sri Lanka. This is the second biggest catch in the area and includes machineguns, carbine rifles, and mortars. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the weapons were seized with local help. He referred to reports from Kathankudy village in the east where the LTTE killed 25 people early this week and said the incident occurred when the LTTE demanded 22 lakh rupees from the residents of the village. The situation became worse when an LTTE member waiting to collect the money was killed. The spokesman said India strongly condemns such acts of intimidation and violence by the LTTE against Muslims.

In the Eastern Province yesterday, LTTE men attacked and killed one EPRLF member at (Anubalipuram). They also clashed with the PKF at (Chedkulam) in which one LTTE member was killed and another wounded. In the north, four LTTE men surrendered and three were apprehended in the last 24 hours.

25 Confirmed Dead

BK010910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, nine Sinhalese were killed and nine injured in a predawn attack at a village in Trincomalee District today by suspected LTTE men. Preliminary reports say the attack on the village Maha Diwulwewa, a Sinhalese settlement, left 7 dead on the spot, while 2 out of the 11 injured later succumbed to their injuries.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that a spokesman of the Indian High Commission confirmed this morning that 25 persons have so far been killed in violent clashes between LTTE and Muslims during the last 2 days at Kathankudy. Eleven persons are missing who have been abducted while eight were injured. The situation is now stated to be under control. PKF is patrolling the area.

In Kandy, a powerful bomb exploded last night in front of a hotel in the midst of New Year's revelry, killing 2 and injuring 62. Seven of the injured are stated to be in a serious condition in hospital.

Fresh Outbreak of Violence Feared

BK040946 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 4 (AFP)—Indian troops have intensified patrols in Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic Eastern Province to prevent a fresh outbreak of clashes between Moslems and Tamils, a senior government official said Monday.

Soldiers and Sri Lankan police have poured into Kathankudy village in Batticaloa District where Tamil separatists and Moslem fundamentalists clashed last week leaving at least 25 dead, the district's main civil administrator said.

Mr. V. Selvaratnam, government agent for Batticaloa, said he was planning to hold talks with Moslem and Tamil leaders in a bid to defuse tension, but transport to the troubled village was still a problem.

"I would not say that the situation in Kathankudy has improved. But it has not worsened, thanks to the increased patrols by Indians and Sri Lankan police," Mr. Selvaratnam said in a telephone interview.

He said Tamils could not travel through Kathankudy, a Moslem fishing village where communal feelings were running high.

"I want to impress on the people that the fighting started between two armed factions. But I am worried this (incident) might lead to a communal clash," Mr. Selvaratnam said.

The latest bout was sparked by the Moslem Jihad's execution Wednesday of a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla accused of extorting money from Moslem businessmen in Kathankudy.

Sri Lanka's Moslem Affairs Minister Haniffa Mohamed flew to Batticaloa, 300 kilometres (190 miles) east of here, and met Indian commanders and citizens committee representatives.

A spokesman for the minister said India's commander in eastern Sri Lanka, Major General Mahmood Jamil, "pleaded for information from Moslems to weed out Tamil militants" active in the Eastern Province.

The latest fighting is worrying both Sri Lankan and Indian leaders who are desperately trying to implement a peace accord lagging behind schedule. "Maj. Gen. Jamil impressed on Moslem leaders in Kathankudy that without closer cooperation with troops and more information about the LTTE in the village, Indian troops cannot be effective," the spokesman said.

Moslem and Sinhalese communities in the east will have an impact on a forthcoming referendum that will decide if people there want a merger of their province with the Tamil-dominated north to continue.

Analysts believe the proposed merger specified in the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord and the combined strength of the two communities have provoked Tamil attacks on Sinhalese and Moslem villages.

A single council for both provinces was to be set up under the pact before the end of last year, but the LTTE rejected Colombo's offer of an interim administration giving a larger share of power to the Tiger rebels.

"With both sides (LTTE and the Jihad) armed to kill, we don't see immediate prospects for peace," a Roman Catholic priest in Batticaloa said by telephone.

Moslems have been in the Eastern Province for hundreds of years, but relations with the Tamil community have been strained recently with sporadic violent clashes.

Historically, however, the Moslems have close links with the largely Hindu Tamil population, tracing their origin to low caste Indian Hindus liberated through Islam.

2 Killed, 59 Injured by Bomb Blast in Kandy

BK010554 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0530 GMT 1 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 01 (LANKA PUWATH)—Two persons were killed and 59 wounded when a time bomb exploded at the King's Street, Trincomalee Street junction in Kandy, Sri Lanka's hill capital, last night, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

The bomb exploded while the "Raja Perahera" (procession) of the Temple of the Tooth Relic was in progress.

The incident occurred at 2245 hours (local time) yesterday [1715 GMT 31 December].

Indian Troops Capture LTTE 'Terrorists', Arms

BK031356 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] The Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] has raided two main camps of the LTTE in Jaffna and seized a large quantity of arms over the last 48 hours. The Indian troops seized about 4,000 rounds of ammunition used in anti-aircraft guns, 180 rounds of rifle cartridges, 15 kg of explosives, 17 kg of gun powder, 900 meters of wire used in landmines, gadgets to explode dynamite, and a large number of hand grenades from the LTTE camp in Chavakachcheri.

During a seige of the LTTE main camp in Navatkuli, nine AK-47 rifles, machineguns, ("M-9 type) guns, four A-3 type machineguns, and two ("M-16 type) rifles were seized. The Indian troops also seized 500 rounds of ammunition, 54 hand grenades and a large amount of explosives from this camp. The IPKF also seized 130 kg of gun power and 4 rocket shells from Inuvil.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that 25 LTTE terrorists were arrested from Seeramalai and four other terrorists were arrested from (Eriyavadi). One terrorist was arrested from Kaitadi and five from Iyakachchi. Six terrorists were arrested from Chunnakam, Palaly, and Chandiruppai.